



**House Health Care Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 4003**

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Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of HB 4003 on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. With 15,000 members working in nearly every health care setting throughout the state, ONA is committed to helping advance measures that increase air quality in our communities and serve to enhance overall patient health.

As our state's health care system continues to shift focus toward more preventative health strategies and upstream factors that impact outcomes, smart solutions that address our air pollutants must also be considered as a fundamental component of this approach.

In Oregon, 81,500 children suffer from asthma and 251,000 people experience heart disease. Nurses play a vital role in helping patients manage these conditions, but exposure to diesel pollution has been shown to be a key trigger that further exacerbates these illnesses.^{1 2} The EPA has also found that 145 non-fatal heart attacks in Oregon are directly attributed to diesel exhaust each year, resulting in \$5.6 million in annual hospitalization costs.³ And this does not account for the correlated costs of restricted activity, heightened ongoing care needs, or loss of employment productivity. In short, our health care system can experience a significant savings if these conditions are better prevented, and curbing diesel exposure is crucial to achieving this.

HB 4003 takes the first step in limiting toxic diesel pollutants. The bill sets a clear deadline for prohibiting the sale of older engines and outlines when all on-road vehicles must be powered by cleaner engines. Further, the bill takes steps for high utilizers of diesel engines to create plans and dedicate funding to reduce pollution.

Oregon's nurses are essential to delivering quality patient care and maintaining our public health. However, as a state, it's critical that we meaningfully address key determinants of health, including improved air quality. Diesel exhaust currently creates an enormous public health burden, resulting in costly emergency room visits, lost productivity, chronic disease and premature death. By protecting our most vulnerable from exposure, we can begin to mitigate this public health burden and allow Oregonians to live healthier lives.

For these reasons, ONA urges your support for HB 4003. Thank you.

¹ American Lung Association State of the Air Report 2016 <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/states/oregon/>

² Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention section. Chronic diseases among adults, Oregon 2010-2015. <http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/ChronicDisease/DataReports/Pages/AdultData.aspx>.

³https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/ChronicDisease/Documents/OHA8582_AllVolumes.pdf.