



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 128

February 18, 2019

Senate Committee on Health Care

Deborah Riddick

Good afternoon Chair Monnes-Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the committee. My name is Deborah Riddick. I am the Director of Government Relations for the Oregon Nurses Association. We represent 15,000 registered nurses throughout the state, as well as our member organization, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. I am joined by Thomas Trubenbach a Nurse Practitioner, who will also offer testimony this afternoon.

The Oregon Nurses Association, on behalf of its Nurse Practitioner members, urges your passage of SB 128. This bill corrects a long-standing barrier to the performance of some procedures requiring fluoroscopy. It authorizes Nurse Practitioners, subject to the rules of both the Board of Medical Imaging and the Board of Nursing, to utilize the services and expertise of the medical imaging licensee in the performance of procedures within the scope of the NPs practice and license. Specifically, those procedures that require visualization of the anatomic location, via the use of fluoroscopy, for safe completion would be addressed by this bill.

Approximately 2 years ago, the Boards named in this bill concluded that although some Nurse Practitioners were utilizing fluoroscopy as described in this bill, it was not allowed under current statute. Those NPs using fluoroscopy had done so with the use of appropriately licensed medical imaging licensees who insure the correct utilization of radiation equipment. Considerable discussion and attempts to resolve the issue in the interest of safety and efficacy has been ongoing during this time.

Two examples will provide details of the type of procedure at issue.

- NPs in pain management use fluoroscopy for guided placement of spinal injections
- NPs in orthopedic practice use fluoroscopy for guidance while reducing fractures.

It is important to note that, during the unknown number of years that NPs had been utilizing fluoroscopy, there had been no complaints to the board of nursing or reports of bad patient outcomes.

Finally, it is the expectation of ONA that rules jointly developed subsequent to passage of this bill, will be consistent with those for other providers who use fluoroscopy in this manner and not impose further barriers in the performance of procedures or cause unnecessary delays in care.



There is a -1 amendment that was crafted with the affected boards, which ONA supports, which would:

- allow APRNs, during the training phase, to train with supervision without jeopardizing their license;
- requires rules considered by OBMI to include a waiver for APRNs that have the experience and can demonstrate that via exam.

The Oregon Nurses Association urges your approval of this bill and its -1 amendment. Patient safety, access, and practice which is consistent with the current standards of care is at issue.