



## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 727**

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Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of Senate Bill 727. The Oregon Nurses Association is Oregon's oldest and largest nursing union and professional association and is proud to represent over 15,000 registered nurses who work in almost every health care setting -- from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school-based health centers and in community-based public health.

ONA is deeply committed to investing in upstream approaches to improve health outcomes for patients. For most adults, providers recommend 4 servings of vegetables and 3 servings of fruit a day because they know that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables helps lower the risk of many serious and chronic health conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Yet, currently one in six Oregonians experiences food insecurity with the cost of eating the recommended servings of fresh produce unaffordable for those who receive SNAP benefits. This ultimately costs the state and federal government in health care costs down the line while largely preventable or controllable diseases go unchecked.

Senate Bill 727 helps address this by encouraging the purchase of Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables. This upfront investment will ultimately promote health and save costs.

It's critical that Oregon use all available tools to encourage healthy living. SB 727 will not only help some of the most vulnerable patients to live healthy lives, it will also provide a sound return on investment to the state.

That's why the Oregon Nurses Association urges your support of SB 727 today.