



Testimony in Support of HB 2019: The Student Success Act

Joint Committee on Student Success

April 11, 2019

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Co-Chairs Roblan and Smith Warner and members of the committee,

My name is Nancy MacMorris-Adix and I am the chair of the Oregon Nurses Association Cabinet on Health Policy. I have practiced as a nurse since 1978 and I know that a strong and equitable education system is necessary to provide opportunity for all Oregon's children to succeed.

I am a certified Nurse-Midwife and with the thousands of babies whose births I have attended over the past 34 years, I can assure you that no parent has viewed their newborn with anything less than hope for a successful and productive life. For some of these babies, life began easily, in homes with plenty- plenty of love, plenty of books, plenty of food, plenty of heat. For others, it was quite a different story...the stress of not enough-money for heat, food, shelter; the lack of loving time with parents reading books to prepare them for entering school; and for too many, exposure to many adverse childhood events- or ACES. These kids enter school needing more to aid quality learning outcomes. And as a state, we have to find a way to provide it because their success is our success.

In addition to attending births, I previously served for 8 years on the Salem-Keizer school board. In that role, I participated in decision-making processes that resulted in significant budget cuts in 6 of those 8 years. Of the programs and staff we cut, few have been restored to this day. The children impacted most adversely by these cuts are those that struggle the most. Those kids need more time in school and wrap around services to support positive learning outcomes. They need reduced class sizes to get the teacher attention they deserve from our educators.

Sometimes people think that nurses are only concerned with health issues. As a nurse, I can tell you that strong and equitable education is a critical issue to the health and safety of our state. I applaud this committee's work and the countless advocates who have fought tirelessly to lift up the need for these new investments. The Student Success Act will finally provide the urgently-needed increase in funding to our schools allowing them to reach every child, every day.

ONA strongly encourages your support for the Student Success Act. Thank you.