

## Members of the Committee

I am writing today to oppose HB 2454 A-engrossed. I am a Registered Nurse who served for 6 years on the Oregon State Board of Nursing. During my tenure on the Board, we frequently discussed endorsement procedures for nurses who wished to either move to Oregon or to practice here temporarily. Over the years, with the assistance of technology, the time frame for obtaining an Oregon license was significantly reduced. At this time, assuming there are no deficiencies in the applicant's requirements, most nurses can be licensed here in about 2 weeks or less.

There are provisions in the current regulations that assist employers to obtain staff for both acute care and long-term care when there is a temporary staffing shortage. I refer you to ORS 678.034 and 040 e and f. One change that should be made, and is acknowledged by the current OSBN staff, is to eliminate the requirement in OAR 851-031-0006 for submission of an official transcript. A nurse who is licensed in another state would have passed the national licensing exam and could not have done so without successful completion of an approved educational program or a national certification review if originally educated out of the country. Making this change, in rule, would eliminate many of the lengthy wait times for applicants.

HB 2454 is unnecessary. It increases the risk that an applicant who may not be qualified for nursing licensure in Oregon will be granted the provisional status. An applicant facing discipline in another state would be able to practice here for up to two years. An applicant who does not meet Oregon's requirements for practice would also be able to avoid both our practice requirement and any refresher requirements. Neither of those scenarios are directed to public protection which is the core reason for professional licensure. The bill also creates a parallel regulatory scheme when there is already a Board that oversees this work.

Years of data show that there are factors which influence a professional's choice of practice location. I refer you to the Oregon Center for Nursing and its ongoing data regarding the nursing workforce. Practice environment, local amenities such as schools and recreation in addition to the usual employment elements such as salary and benefits are all contributors to workforce choices. Creating this two-year window for nurses is unlikely to increase the supply of nurses choosing to practice in Eastern Oregon.

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