



Oregon

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

Senate Bill 127A

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 127A. The bill remedies the discrepancy between the legal license type “nurse midwife nurse practitioner” used in the Nurse Practice Act, and the broadly accepted and used moniker “certified nurse midwife.”

Nationwide, the term for advanced practice registered nurses whose specialty is nurse midwifery is “certified nurse midwife.” Oregon is the only state or US territory that uses another term; in Oregon, such APRNs are called “nurse midwife nurse practitioners.” This creates difficulty and confusion when a CNM licensed elsewhere applies for licensure in Oregon.

After lengthy discussions with the Board’s legal counsel, it was determined that the Board’s main goal of clarity could be achieved by a rule change. To pursue this solution, five minor changes will be required in statute that are addressed by SB 127A. The bill changes the references to “nurse midwife nurse practitioners” to “nurse practitioners who specialize in nurse midwifery.”

We worked extensively on this amended bill with representatives from the Oregon Nurses Association and the Oregon chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, as well as other CNM advocates, and they have expressed their support.

We anticipate there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill. The Board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 127A.