



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 127 A

April 30, 2019

House Committee on Health Care

Deborah Riddick

Good afternoon Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Nosse and Hayden, and members of the committee. My name is Deborah Riddick. I am the Director of Government Relations for the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). We represent 15,000 registered nurses throughout the state, as well as our member organization, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. ONA supports SB 127 A, as introduced by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN).

Historically, Oregon has led the nation in advancing thoughtful nursing policy that offers our nurse practitioners, some of the strongest practice and prescribing authority in the country. Currently under statute, section 851-050-005, there are 12 distinct nurse practitioner subspecialties identified, which share common scope of practice privileges; Nurse Midwife Nurse Practitioner (NMNP) is listed among them. Here in Oregon, as is common all across the country, Nurse Practitioners who specialize in this practice area are more commonly known as Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM). By amending the NMNP designation within current statute, this discrepancy will be eliminated.

It's estimated that 1 in every 5 Oregon births are assisted by these providers. Clearly, it's not what they're called but rather what they do, that makes them essential providers, helping us address our maternal and infant mortality rates. However, we agree with the OSBN that aligning the licensing title with how NMNPs are identifying themselves, as CNMs, in their charting and billing addresses a long-standing conflict.

ONA had the opportunity to work with the OSBN and the members of the American College of Nurse Midwives to ensure that this bill strikes a balance between the needs of our Nurse Practitioners and the Board's desire to achieve clarity and uniformity with our nursing statute. We appreciate the OSBN's recognition of this inconsistency and its willingness to update the designation in statute. The process was collaborative and responsive. And as a result, we fully support its work product, SB 127 A