



Testimony on Senate Bill 1551  
February 4, 2020  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
Deborah Riddick, JD RN

Good afternoon Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum, 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 and the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. The ONA supports SB 1551, which would require the Oregon Health Authority to provide biannual reports to committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health on issues related to financial requirements and financial reporting requirements imposed on coordinated care organizations.

Oregon has an impressive legacy of advancing health care innovation and system transformation and for leading the way, in many ways. The State is recognized nation-wide and directs efforts in states, near and far; the nation is watching. Inherent in this leadership, is a responsibility to lead the way with integrity and humility. Having the vision and courage to be the first in anything means that some theories tested may yield success, some will fall short of expectations. There are lessons learned in both results and both should be shared broadly in order to advance the work. Nowhere is that sharing more important than in the area of health care where unacknowledged shortcomings could be the difference, literally, between life and death.

The ONA supports the SB 1551 mandate of transparency and accountability not only as the moral thing to do but also as the responsible thing to do. Collecting data, both objective and subjective, is the best way to test our premises, track the outcomes, and advance effective health policy. It also affords opportunities for iterative intervention to redirect efforts, in real time, as trends appear, rather than waiting for years to perform an autopsy on unsuccessful programming; waste within the system could be greatly reduced. And because State efforts are supported by the public, it is more than reasonable that reporting of this information be required. It fosters public trust and greater confidence in the institution's ability to access public needs and to adopt solutions that are fiscally responsible. We hope you agree and request your support of SB 1551.