



**Testimony in Support of HB 2086**  
**March 16, 2021**  
**House Committee on Behavior Health**  
**Akil S. Patterson, MLS**

Greetings, Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Nosse and Moore-Green , and members of the committee.

My name is Akil Patterson, and I serve as the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Political Organizer.

Today I submit, to the committee, testimony in support of HB 2086 on behalf of ONA's 15,000 registered nurses, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon, and professional member affiliates throughout the state. I am honored to represent them and serve as a voice for our member organization.

ONA supports building healthy communities, unforcedly we often are not helping those in the behavioral health services and programs working in the industry. While we are aware HB 2086 is no magic pill or magic solution, we know that this bill can serve as a road map to further invest in the future of helping to support those who enter the mental health industry that can aid and support our members who report understaffing and assaults of Nursing professionals.

HB 2086 with the increase in funding for community restoration for aid and assistance so that those in need can secure residential treatment facilities beds. This means that we can properly fund and staff programs that are have been ravaged for years. We in this nation had a history of putting those with mental health issues into isolation and while there are many people who will never know the impact that had on this nation nursing history remembers that it has always been better to treat people then to turn a blind eye on them.

ONA believes that this legislation seeks to improve access to treatment and care, and we support the passage of this legislation.