



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2111

January 26, 2021

House Committee on General Government

Akil S. Patterson, MLS

Good afternoon Chair Person Wilde , Vices Chairs Leif and Lively, and members of the committee.

My name is Akil Patterson and I serve as the Oregon Nurses Associations Political Organizer, Today I submit to you testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) nearly 15,000 registered nurses and Professionals throughout the state. I am honored to represent them and serve as a voice for our member organization, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon.

ONA Wishes to join others in our support of HB 2111, which would more accurately reflect the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's (OLCC) evolving roll within the state. Simply put, it would recognize and codify that the OLCC regulates marijuana in addition to liquor, spirits and other beverages.

In December of 2020, the Associated Press reported that the Cannabis industry in Oregon Topped 1 Billion Dollars in sales. This is a mixture of Compassion care and recreational but none the less the Industry brings a great number of people to this state for care from a medical provider. Our Nurses see these patients early on before anyone else when they are at the peak of suffering; and often they see them again and they see the positive impact of individuals using medical care under the supervision of their provider.

HB 2111 corrects what is a technical issue of use of language that reflects to the public the duties of the commission. We should always acknowledge words set a standard and this bill sets a standard to recognize the legal right of this states commission to oversee the cannabis industry.

ONA supports HB 2111 and we ask that you vote favorably to move the bill out of committee.