

Submitter: CHERYL MCDERMOTT

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2928

While I am not opposed to HB 2928, I believe it should be amended to include other licensed healthcare professionals in addition to RN, LPN, MD and DO. Nurses and physicians can not do their jobs without these other professionals, and recruiting for these professionals not included in the bill is a challenge to all Oregon health systems - often resulting in increased expenses when organizations have to pay the drastically increased rates for traveling staff. Specifically, registered respiratory therapists (RRTs), medical laboratory technicians (MLT), family nurse practitioners (FNP), and physician assistants (PAs). The shortage of RRTs throughout the pandemic highlighted the importance of this profession, and it, and the others omitted from the bill deserve the same support as the visible physicians and nurses. These are the invisible, but vital, healthcare workers which are in shortage and deserve support.