



February 1, 2023

Representative Nosse, Chair
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court St. NE - HR F
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marie Boman-Davis, I use she/her pronouns and I am the Public Health Division Manager and appointed Local Public Health Administrator for Washington County Oregon. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 2652.

From winter storms to pediatric respiratory infections to homelessness to hunger, Oregon's 36 counties need a health care and human services workforce to support local priorities and to be nimble in emergencies. HB 2652 provides an important mechanism to leverage existing relationships with public and private employers, businesses, educational institutions, and other entities to develop a workforce integral to improving community wellbeing, addressing health inequities, and strengthening the economy.

Benefits in HB 2652 would support entry, reentry, or a career change by offering potential workers support such as scholarships, childcare, and elder care subsidies to address their personal and financial needs. It would also support employers with tools such as signing bonuses and housing assistance which helps counties grow and sustain a local workforce.

HB 2652 provides a broad range of meaningful intermediate-term strategies to address local barriers across a diverse workforce and the workforce spectrum. For example, first responders such as emergency medical services (EMS) providers are trusted and respected. They offer important pre-hospital emergency medical care that saves lives and can offer those skills in non-emergency situations. EMS providers can support culturally and linguistically responsive health care services and address geographically underserved communities in counties of all sizes. They can provide post-discharge care, in-home monitoring of high-risk patients, and make connections to services for health-related social needs such as housing and food.

This bill is beneficial to all county Health and Human Services entities, public, and private employers. I appreciate this panel's time and encourage you to support HB 2652.

Respectfully,

Marie C. Boman-Davis

Marie Boman-Davis, PhD, MPH, MCHES
Public Health Division Manager & Local Public Health Administrator