



Oregon Center for  
**N U R S I N G**

## Testimony to House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

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### Testimony on HB-2928

HB-2928 (Nelson, Goodwin) extends the healthcare provider incentive program to students enrolled in healthcare professional training programs leading to licensure as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or registered nurse (RN).

The Future of Oregon's Nursing Workforce: Analysis and Recommendation report conducted by the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) stated the growth of the nursing workforce greatly depends on the success of nursing students in their education programs.

The report further states that the recent declines in the numbers of applicants to RN and LPN education programs need to be reversed, and the commitment to increasing the diversity of the nursing workforce needs to be reaffirmed.

To increase the diversity within the nursing workforce and to increase the number of students from low-income and other marginalized populations enrolled in nursing education programs, state policymakers could provide funding to support the development, expansion, and sustenance of these programs. Moreover, there should be greater funding for direct support to diverse students, including grants, scholarships, and stipends.

An effort such as this, would likely increase the diversity of students enrolled in nursing programs and of the nursing workforce by providing an opportunity for these students to enroll in nursing school who would otherwise be unable to attend due to financial constraints.

HB-2928 extends the healthcare provider incentive program by adding access to scholarships to students from low-income or other marginalized populations enrolled in nursing program leading to licensure as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse.