



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 2408

HB-2408 (Diehl, Goodwin) would enact the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact in the state of Oregon.

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) described the Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact) as a solution to consider in Oregon to alleviate nursing workforce challenges.

The Compact is a policy tool to reduce administrative barriers for nurses coming to practice in Oregon from other states, while still allowing for Oregon to oversee individual nurse's practice and conduct disciplinary action, if needed. Participating in the Compact would provide some benefits to the nursing workforce, including:

- Being Cost effective for nurses and employers by eliminating the need for many individual state licenses;
- Enabling telehealth practice (including triage, call centers, case managers);
- Reducing the amount of time needed to process licenses in Oregon; and
- Supporting nurse spouses in military families.

Some consequences of enacting the Compact in Oregon include:

- The Oregon State Board of Nursing would not collect licensing fees from nurses with Compact license and would experience a reduction in funding;
- Despite safeguards taken to ensure Compact-licensed nurses are qualified to practice and won't endanger the public, participation in the Compact opens a risk for unqualified nurses practicing in Oregon; and
- Oregon will have access to less information about nurses who practice in the state, which could hamper efforts to analyze workforce data and pursue accurate workforce planning.

There is data suggesting that enacting the Compact in Oregon will have little or no impact on increasing the number of nurses working in Oregon.

The Future of Oregon's Nursing Workforce report recommended a consideration of the benefits and consequences of enacting the Compact in Oregon.