



April 24, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for SB 628 A

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of Senate Bill 628 A on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 16,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon.

Our members believe that everyone deserves access to affordable, timely health care. Regardless of how rare or unique an individual's condition is, they deserve to receive treatment that enables them to be healthy and live a meaningful life. It is for this reason that ONA is supportive of SB 628 A, which requires health benefit plans and contracts to cover IVIG for treating PANDAS/PANS.

Currently, Oregon insurers are refusing to cover IVIG, even though it is already covered by Medicaid, and ten other states have passed legislation ensuring that children have access to this care. Every child in Oregon deserves to receive the treatment they need, without exceptions. ONA urges a yes vote on SB 628 A.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin