



February 6, 2024

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 4011

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) is a professional association and labor union representing over 17,000 nurses and healthcare professionals across Oregon. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon.

ONA is supportive of four components included in HB 4011:

- Eliminating cost sharing for cervical cancer examinations. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women¹, and with early diagnosis, the five-year survival rate is 91%.² Unfortunately, many patients who are referred for diagnostic or supplemental screenings do not complete these tests due to cost. This is especially true for lower- and middle-income patients, who are more likely to be uninsured or under-insured. Our members strongly believe that every Oregonian deserves access to affordable health care, and reducing costs related to cervical cancer examinations are an important step forward in that work.
- Expanding access to continuous glucose monitors (CGM). Currently, the Oregon Health Plan covers CGMs for individuals with Type 1 diabetes, but not for those with Type 2 diabetes. This restriction limits patient autonomy and relegates patients with Type 2 to receive less effective treatment, increasing their risk of developing serious conditions

¹ “Cervical Cancer.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 17 Nov. 2023, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cervical-cancer#:~:text=Cervical%20cancer%20is%20the%20fourth,%2D%20and%20middle%2Dincome%20countries.

² “Cervical Cancer Prognosis and Survival Rates.” *National Cancer Institute*, 27 Apr. 2023, www.cancer.gov/types/cervical/survival#:~:text=The%205%2Dyear%20relative%20survival%20rates%20for%20cervical%20cancer%20are,relative%20survival%20rate%20is%2060%25.



such as heart disease, kidney disease, and blindness.³ Oregonians Type 2 diabetes deserve access to the most effective treatment options, including CGMs.

- Funding for Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board. Our nurses and clinicians consistently report being overwhelmed by the number of patients experiencing mental and behavioral health crises, and substance use disorder. They do their best to serve all patients, but there are not enough resources for individuals who need mental and behavioral health care. Providing additional funding for recruitment and retention of providers who can provide culturally responsive care is not only good for Oregonians facing behavioral health challenges or substance use disorder but will benefit the entire health system.
- Harm Reduction Clearinghouse. Nurses in Oregon consistently see infections and injuries resulting from drug use, in addition to deadly overdoses. Our members have found that harm reduction tools help drug users stay safe, including reducing a user’s likelihood of becoming infected with HIV, Hepatitis C, and are a key strategy in preventing overdose deaths. Our members are strongly supportive of harm reduction strategies, and believe that OHA’s clearinghouse will increase the availability of these tools.

ONA urges your support for these sections of HB 4011. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

³ “Type 2 Diabetes.” *Mayo Clinic*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 14 Mar. 2023, www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/type-2-diabetes/symptoms-causes/syc-20351193.