



Testimony for the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

Regarding HB 3220

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Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi and Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) submits this **neutral** testimony regarding House Bill 3220, which directs the Oregon State Board of Nursing to establish rules mandating a student-to-faculty ratio of at least 10:1 in the clinical components of nursing education programs, with provisions to allow ratios up to 15:1 under certain circumstances.

The Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the nursing profession in Oregon through research, education, and collaboration. We strive to provide an informed, evidence-based perspective on issues impacting the nursing workforce and healthcare delivery across the state.

OCN acknowledges the importance of maintaining appropriate student-to-faculty ratios to ensure quality clinical education. We recognize that establishing a standard ratio aims to enhance educational outcomes while creating opportunities to expand the number of nurses graduating from Oregon-based nursing programs. However, we also consider the potential challenges that nursing education programs and clinical partners may face in implementing these requirements.

In particular, we highlight the difficulties in accommodating larger cohort sizes at smaller clinical placement settings, such as rural hospitals or community-based care locations. These settings may lack the physical space, staff capacity, or diversity of clinical experiences to support larger groups of students without compromising patient care or student learning.

Additionally, larger cohorts in clinical settings can increase the stress and workload of nurses who mentor and supervise students. Nurses are already managing demanding patient-care responsibilities, and additional expectations to support larger groups of students may exacerbate burnout and workforce retention challenges.

We recommend that the Board, in developing these rules, engage with stakeholders from nursing education institutions, clinical partners, and frontline nurses to assess the feasibility and

impact of the proposed ratios. This collaborative approach will help ensure that the standards set forth are both practical and effective in achieving the desired educational quality without unintended consequences.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this matter, and we look forward to being a resource to you as this bill is considered.