

March 8, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Senate Bill 529 - Relating to community health

Honorable Chair Patterson and members of the committee:

My name is Tiffany Wadlow. I serve as a faith community nurse (FCN) in my congregation located in Lebanon, OR. I am the Director of Engagement on the Faith Community Health Network board (FCHN). I am in favor of Senate Bill (SB) 529.

A little over a year ago, I was working with a member in my congregation. He was trying to navigate the medical system as he needed a special type of cardiac stent. The placement of the stent was considered high risk; he was having to work with his insurance company and his cardiologist's office. The two offices did not appear to be communicating well with each other. During this time, he was having debilitating chest pain that was affecting his daily life activities and made it difficult to enjoy his family and hobbies. As an FCN, I worked to help him be an advocate for his health and to assist him in how to communicate with his insurance and cardiologist. He was able to finally have the stent procedure, and I was able to help him and his wife during and after the procedure with his recovery.

This incident opened my eyes to the barriers people face when trying to navigate medical care and the importance of having faith community nurses/community nurses within our communities/congregations to assist people with medical care navigation and spiritual care during a medical crisis or with day-to-day living. Currently, faith community nurses are unpaid for the work and services we provide; making it difficult to recruit and retain faith community nurses in our congregations and communities. SB 529 will help faith community nurses be able to get reimbursement for the services we provide and promote sustainability for the future. Please pass SB 529.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Wadlow, BSN, RN