



February 23, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Cristian Mendoza Ruvalcaba, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 4088A

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Cristian Mendoza Ruvalcaba. I am a nurse practitioner from Medford and a member of the Oregon Nurses Association. In addition to being a member, I sit on our Cabinet on Health Policy. Although I am an employee of OHSU, this is a personal opinion and does not represent the opinion of OHSU. I

The Oregon Nurses Association is a nurses union and professional association representing over 24,000 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 are committed to ensuring that all patients have affordable access to the vital reproductive health care services that improve outcomes in our communities.

We are proud to support HB 4088A.

HB 4088A reinforces Oregon's longstanding commitment to protecting patient privacy, provider safety, and access to evidence-based healthcare free from political interference.

HB 4088A ensures that providers and healthcare workers can safely provide care to our patients. Providers and healthcare workers should not have to practice in fear of federal and out-of-state attacks. We should not fear government punishment or retaliation while providing evidence-based medical care. Healthcare should be provided and received without fear.

Personal health care decisions should be made between patients and their providers. HB 4088A protects that principle by strengthening Oregon's laws that safeguard access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming treatment when that care is lawful in our state. Privacy in health care matters deeply to us because confidentiality is foundational to the patient-provider relationship; patients must feel safe sharing personal information without fear that their health care decisions will be exposed or used against them. When confidentiality is protected, patients are more likely to seek timely and appropriate care.



## Caring for Oregon

We are concerned about out-of-state interference that seeks to penalize patients or providers for receiving or delivering lawful, evidence-based care in Oregon, as such actions create unnecessary stress for healthcare professionals and patients. Provider protections are essential to ensure clinicians can practice according to evidence-based standards without fear of legal retaliation, allowing them to focus on delivering high-quality care. Fear and uncertainty have real consequences—when individuals worry about privacy breaches, legal risks, or stigma, they may delay or avoid care altogether, leading to preventable complications and poorer health outcomes. HB 4088A helps ensure that Oregonians can access care safely, confidentially, and without fear.

At its core, respect for human dignity is central to health care, and we must uphold the inherent worth of every person by ensuring access to safe, confidential, and lawful care.

We urge the passage of HB 4088A.

Thank you,

Cristian Mendoza Ruvalcaba, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CPNP-PC, CNE on behalf of

Oregon Nurses Association, Cabinet on Health Policy