



Testimony on HJR 202  
February 20, 2020  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
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Good morning Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee. My name is Deborah Riddick. I am the Director of Government Relations for the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). The ONA supports the value statement advanced in HRJ 202. We also applaud the sponsors, Representative Greenlick and Senator Manning for their consistent commitment to the health and well-being of every Oregonian.

Oregon has long established itself as a national health care leader. Our strong scope of practice laws makes Oregon a leader in advanced practice nursing. We demonstrated our leadership by covering children across the state. Oregon has supported health care innovation, by law and resources allocation. The administration of this widely accepted value is enshrined in HJR 202. We're a state committed to the health of the diverse communities that call Oregon home.

Although research has revealed that social and economic determinants are leading contributors to poor health, access to care is recognized as a major factor, as well. We hope the State continues to work aggressively to address both. HRJ 202, as a value statement, has the potential to provide residents with access to essential physical and mental health care services; a public health and general welfare charge that underpins our collective quality of life.

ONA believes that health care is a right, not a privilege and that the health status of our residents drives our collective success and longevity. If we are not able to support communities in the prevention of infectious disease, we are all at risk of contagion. If we are not moving in a strategic direction to address the health needs of every Oregonian, we risk exacerbating chronic conditions and increasing health care costs due to delayed assessment and treatment. If we are unable to support and maintain a healthy workforce, our economy fails. When individuals lack access to care, we are all vulnerable to the repercussions. The policy commitment outlined in HRJ 202 aligns with ONA's mission to support quality care and healthy communities in the State of Oregon; we hope that you agree & will support HJR 202.