



Testimony in Support of HB 2088
March 3, 2021
House Committee On Behavioral Health
Akil S. Patterson, MLS

Greetings Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee.

My name is Akil Patterson, and I am the political organizer for the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). Today I submit, to you, testimony in support of HB 2088 on behalf of ONA's 15,000 registered nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and professional member affiliates throughout the state.

Our support of HB 2088 reflects our mission vision and values that focus on our collective power to advocate for nursing, quality healthcare, and healthy communities. We believe that if an organization is to be healthy, then that community should be reflected in the care that one will receive. Traditional medicine and healthcare workers are integral to that part of the development of community, it was not too long ago that Nursing Mid-wives and others were told that they would not be needed but we have seen an increase in these forms of workers especially since the pandemic.

People should have the right to choose what kind of care they will seek so long as it is not impending of the care or health of themselves or others. There is a need for more individuals in medical field and we know that not everyone will become a nurse, nurse Practitioner or otherwise, but that will not stop them from caring for others. We must acknowledge the cultural significance of Traditional Tribal Health workers and the practices of indigenous people that work in consultation with other providers.

ONA supports HB 2088, and we ask that you vote favorably to move the bill out of committee.