



**Testimony in Support of SB 567**  
**March 3, 2021**  
**Senate Committee On Health Care**  
**Akil S. Patterson, MLS**

Greetings, Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee.

My name is Akil Patterson, and I serve as the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Political Organizer.

Today I submit, to the committee, testimony in support of SB 567 on behalf of ONA's 15,000 registered nurses, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon, and professional member affiliates throughout the state. I am honored to represent them and serve as a voice for our member organization.

ONA supports our members and professional associates; we believe that our nurses and nurse professionals have in large part acted maturely and responsibly with a focus on patient access and quality of care. In most settings, professional providers are often more worried about the care of their patients and not the sexual orientation, gender, or ethnic background. We have countless examples of when our members had reported to us stories since last year when they worried about the patient's safety more than their own.

One patient who was dying in the ER crashed from a Drug overdose, the person was Covid-19 positive, and the medical staff did not have proper PPE, yet those individuals all working medical professionals helped that patient with no regard for the color of their skin, sexual orientation or gender. The only thing that medical professionals should see is human life in need of care, and ONA members always show up for work and to do the job that they are called to do.

ONA does not interfere in private matters between provider and patient, which this legislation does protect. This bill seeks to have medical providers do what they should be doing now based on any oath one takes. In our own ethics training, our members learn about Nonmaleficence (do no harm), Obligation not to inflict harm intentionally; In medical ethics, the guiding maxim is "First, do no harm." Beneficence (do good) Provides benefits to persons and contributes to their welfare. This refers to an action done for the use of others.

ONA believes that this legislation seeks only to improve relationships with providers and patients, and we ask that this committee move this bill favorable on behalf of Oregonians.

