



Testimony in Support of HB 2200
March 9, 2021
House Committee on Judiciary
Akil S. Patterson, MLS

Greetings, Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble, Power, 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 HB 2200 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; Our purpose for supporting this legislation is to ensure that care happens wherever people are. Currently, this bill is written in a manner that does not place any mandates on any staff member and builds community. Most healthcare providers maintain vital records through EMR or Electronic Medical Records system; Oregon Medicaid records are housed in the EHR or Electronic Health Records, which allow for quick data sharing, research, and rapid customer service so that patients and providers can get almost 24-hour access to medical records.

Jails and prisons are few places where people are exposed to communicable diseases repeatedly, and we are not just talking about nurses or medical staff inside the facilities who understand the assumed risk when dealing with any patient; we are talk guards, teachers, families, and others. We know the best treatment is prevention and 72 hours is a reasonable request to send an email or make a phone call so that these facilities can protect workers and families from communicable diseases that the detainee might be unwilling to share out of fear or due to a lapse in mental judgment at the time of their intake. This legislation does not say who will have to do it, simply that it must be done. Jails do the necessary health screening during an intake of a new detainee; as we work to improve REAL-D data collecting, we work to meet the goal of better care and lower cost for all.

ONA believes that this legislation seeks only to improve communication and connection between the state and other partners in the state move.