



**Testimony in Support of HB 3369**  
**April 28, 2021**  
**Senate Committee on Health**  
**Akil S. Patterson, MLS, LLM**

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 HB 3369 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 building healthy communities, but in order to build health communities we have to be able to talk to patients about all issues that impact their care and for our advance Practice Nurses exceptionally we need to be able to discuss Cannabis in all forms.

Healthcare costs are one of the significant factors that prevent people in communities from getting regular screenings and healthcare checkups. They often can end up self-medicating or maybe not be aware of the issues that impact them around mental health and addiction services that can be an alternative to traditional treatment, but the one person they openly have a far better relationship with are not able to talk to them about Cannabis. That means thousands of patients suffering in silence because they cannot speak to someone they personally trust and instead only a select group of medical providers can talk to them about it.

Our members have not only the right, but they have a calling to continue to help patients navigate all spaces of care. Our members range from ICU Nurses to Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners in facilities seeing patients just as another provider. They issue prescriptions some of them and others are right by the side of a traditional idea physician working with patients all day and all night while a Doctor might see them once a day and really heavily on our members for information, If our members cannot speak to them about a subject matter how much time is wasted when we can't respond to the questions?

ONA believes that this legislation seeks to improve access and information to quality care, this is not about Registered Nurses or Advanced Practice Registered Nurses being able to do anything beyond educating patients about the impacts of medications they take on their mental and physical health. It is a core function of nursing practice that has evidence at its core. ONA urges your support of HB 3369.