



Testimony in Support of House Bill 3108
February 11, 2021
House Committee on Health Care
Deborah Riddick, JD RN

Good afternoon Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee. My name is Deborah Riddick. I am the Director of Government Relations for the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). We represent 15,000 registered nurses throughout the state and the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. The ONA supports HB 3108, which would require individual and group health insurance policies, health care service contractors, multiple employer welfare arrangements and state medical assistance program to provide reimbursement for at least three primary care visits annually.

Our membership stands in strong support of health service accessibility. We believe that increasing primary visit coverage is consistent with advancement of that goal. Given the delays in care brought about by the pandemic, we believe this is a reasonable addition that will both help providers and patients re-establish trusting and supportive relationship. HB 3108 offers additional opportunities for unaddressed care to be surfaced in a less hurried process that allows for better engagement beyond the physical exam. It also helps to support the work to improve cultural responsiveness and value-based payment strategies. The more patients and providers interface with our evolving system redesign, the better the State's ability to evaluate and adapt its strategies and tactics to meet our community's needs and its stated outcomes. Post-pandemic, the need for care will undoubtedly increase although the uptake of services may lag behind. Our communities will need the additional time to process all that they have been through and would benefit greatly from the additional opportunity to seek the restorative care that they need when they need it.

The ONA supports HB 3108 as another tool to ensure that our investment in health system innovation has the best opportunity for achieving our triple aims and meeting the real needs of Oregonians. We believe it is complementary to our work to date. It supports our believe that solutions that emanate from collaborative consideration offer the best opportunity for success. We hope you agree and that you will support HB 3108.