



Testimony in Support of SB 407
February 17, 2021
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
Akil S. Patterson, MLS

Greetings Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, 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 you, testimony in support of SB 704 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 SB 704, which would rightly strip away the "Gay Panic Defense," used against people who are often Transgender or Gender non-binary. Although often used in cases, it was the same defense used in the 1990s murder of Mathew Shephard, a young gay man killed in Colorado in 1998, or when a Puerto Rican woman named Alexa Negrón Luciano murdered after using the women's restroom at a fast-food restaurant.

Most regrettable 17-year-old Nikki Kuhnhausen was found dead in Vancouver, Washington, after meeting up with a man for a sexual encounter in June. The 25-year-old arrested for Kuhnhausen's death "became enraged at the realization he had engaged in sexual contact" with a trans girl and strangled her. We should have recognized that a young man had sexual relations with a minor more than the three-year age difference under 18.

From a Scientific perspective person's 46 chromosomes are primarily Xs for women, while males have both X and Y chromosomes, which are dominant and allow for growing testis, otherwise known as male body parts. Honestly, there is no difference because men have both X&Y and women often have X, but there are cis born or natural birth women who have both, although the Y chromosome is not dominant. Both men and women have estrogen and progesterone levels, and males often have higher testosterone levels.

Research shows an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity are not reasons to murder someone in any way, no matter how angry one may get. Our nation, founded on laws, grants equal protection to all, and today, we are asking this body to codify regulations for the equal protection of all humans.

ONA supports SB 704, and we ask that you vote favorably to move the bill out of committee.