



Testimony in Support of HB 2060

February 2 , 2021

House Education Committee

Akil S. Patterson, MLS

Good afternoon Chair Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, 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 HB 2060 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 HB 2060, which would expand the list of eligible participants to receive distributions from the student investment account to include some of our most marginalized groups. Those being people that are currently incarcerated in the juvenile detention and correction education program and those students that are hard of hearing or deaf. This legislation would help further our mission in creating sustainable healthy communities.

We know quality education is foundational to successful health outcomes, which is why expanding access to funds is critical for our student's and our communities' health. Educational food nutrition standards have decreased since 2014. We are aware that the number of students accessing meals regularly during COVID-19 has reduced, which means more youth are suffering in silence. Many students currently going without meals or proper nutrition are often left to fend for themselves, which is not appropriate from our standpoint. As a community, we must ensure that we are uplifting and helping those most significant in need receive the same equitable opportunities.

Our members believe that educating students about agricultural food health and nutrition are all critical standards for the future of their growing brains. Those who are economically disenfranchised suffer from some of the worst educational outcomes. If we have a future where we can develop healthy, educated, and competent nurses and nursing professionals, we must ensure that they receive the proper nutrition and nutritional guidance. HB2060 helps alleviate some of the unfair practices and injustice around today's social economics.

ONA supports HB 2060, and we ask that you vote favorably to move the bill out of committee.