



Testimony in Support of House Bill 5024

January 28, 2021

Joint Sub-Committee on Human Services

Deborah Riddick JD, RN

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Lieber and Nosse, 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, as well as our member organization, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. The ONA supports HB 5024, which appropriates funds to ensure our Oregon Health Authority have the revenues necessary to maintain the infrastructure and human resource to meet their public charge.

HB 5024 aligns with ONA's mission to advocate for nursing, quality health care and healthy communities. Our state remains a national leader in many areas of health care and social services. Our innovative and collaborative solutions are only made possible because of our consistent commitment to provide the resources that drive our advancements. Without the staffing expertise, our most vital resource, ideas, and potential solutions are simply theory. With thoughtful appropriations, especially during times of economic turmoil and social transition, reinforces our commitment and keeps all of us, the State and the residents we serve, all moving forward.

The ONA requests that you support the request of the Oregon Health Authority and fully fund their appropriation request reflected in HB 5024. To do otherwise will only lead to more costly intervention in the future and greater, potentially avoidable, human suffering from now until then.