



Testimony in Support of House Bill 4083

February 2, 2022

House Committee on Health Care

Jack Dempsey

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) represents 15,000 registered nurses throughout the state and the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon. ONA supports HB 4083, which would require individual and group health insurance policies, health care service contractors, multiple employer welfare arrangements and state medical assistance programs 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 4083 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 uptick 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.

ONA supports HB 4083 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 belief that solutions that emanate from collaborative consideration offer the best opportunity for success. We hope you agree and that you will support HB 4083.