

Submitter: Joanne Buck

On Behalf Of: ONA

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2773

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joanne Buck and I am a member and officer of Multnomah County ONA. Having worked with Multnomah County Health Department as an RN for 30 years, I know the value of a strong Public Health Department. During my career, I have worked with teens, immigrant and refugees, high risk parents. I have entered 100's of homes, connected clients with medical care, mental health counseling, as well as housing, and food resources. I have helped clients to understand and manage their medical diagnosis, obtain needed medications, help sign up for medical insurance. Public Health Nurses are involved in the community; We know the needs and problems that face members of the community and roll up our sleeves to help. From Diabetes, to HIV, to parenting, Breastfeeding to homelessness, to working in the schools and jails, we are involved. We did not hide when COVID hit, we worked and helped those who were afflicted and gave the immunizations. A healthy community has a strong Public Health Department. I am retired but still working due to the nursing shortage. We need more nurses to do this valuable job, and money to expand programs for our work.

Please HB 2773 to support this work and continue to give our community the care and support it requires.