



MARQUIS
COMPANIES

February 14, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the committee,

My name is April Diaz and I serve as Senior Vice President for Clinical Services at Marquis Companies. Marquis provides a broad range of senior living options, including skilled nursing and post-acute care, assisted living, memory care and more. I am registered nurse with more than 26 years of nursing experience in senior care and have held positions in long term care communities ranging from RN Resident Care Manager to Director of Nursing.

I would like to express my support for House Bill (HB) 2600, which is aimed at improving representation from nurses or nursing assistants on the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN). While it may seem like the practice of nursing is the same no matter the type of care setting, I know from experience there are critical differences in practice and training for nurses, LPN, and CNAs who work in hospitals versus nursing facilities or community-based care settings. Often the complexities and specialized needs of our senior population are overlooked due to lack of current board experience/knowledge about senior care environments. For example, in 2009 a practice statement was released by ODHS and OSBN that restricted the ability to use LPN nurses in completing minimum data set (MDS), an assessment required in nursing facilities by the federal government. This restriction was not applied in most other states. In today's workforce climate the voice of LTC representation on OSBN board is even more vital to guide how the scarce resource of our nurses can and should be utilized.

Adequate representation and diversity on OSBN should be important not only to those of us who practice nursing, but also to patient or resident who receives care. Thank you for your consideration of HB 2600 and I urge your support.

Sincerely,

April Diaz, RN, BS
Vice President Clinical Services
Marquis Companies