



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Board of Nursing**

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Before the  
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

## **House Bill 2408**

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) wishes to submit informational testimony regarding House Bill 2408. The purpose of the bill is to enact the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact in Oregon.

Between March 2020 to April 2022, during Governor Brown's declared emergency, the OSBN granted emergency authorizations to practice to 11,675 nurses and nursing assistants. These emergency authorizations allowed health care practitioners who were licensed in another state or US jurisdiction to work in Oregon without first obtaining an Oregon nursing license or nursing assistant certificate. However, the board had no authority to hold those practitioners accountable if they were reported to the agency for possible violations of the Oregon Nurse Practice Act. This presented a clear public safety issue.

As we understand it, allowing the OSBN to add a multistate license option to the existing Oregon nursing license structure would, among other things, allow nurses who hold a multistate license in another compact state to work here while giving the board the ability to hold those nurses accountable for possible violations of the Oregon Nurse Practice Act.

The board welcomes any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 2408.