



## Testimony to House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

Jana R. Bitton, MPA

Executive Director | Oregon Center for Nursing

503-347-4047 | [jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org](mailto:jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org)

February 20, 2023

### Testimony on HB-2744

HB-2744 (Goodwin, Nelson) added a registered nurse who serves as a nurse educator or a nurse educator associate to the list of healthcare providers eligible for income tax credits allowed for rural medical providers.

The Future of Oregon's Nursing Workforce: Analysis and Recommendation report conducted by the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) and the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) emphasized the difficulty in hiring and retaining nurse educators is one key factor in the inability to expand the capacity of Oregon's nursing education programs.

This limits the ability of nursing programs across the state to increase the number of new nurse graduates and is a major factor contributing to an inadequate supply of new entrants to workforce.

Currently, Oregon's nursing education programs do not produce the number of nurses the state needs, leaving Oregon dependent on inter-state migration. According to the report, the shortage of nursing faculty was described as a "crisis."

The report proposes several recommendations to increase nursing program's ability to successfully recruit and retain an adequate number of nursing faculty members for the expansion of nursing education programs.

One recommendation put forward in the report was for state policymakers to consider providing financial incentives to faculty such as expanded tax breaks and loan repayment.

HB-2744 would allow registered nurses serving as a nursing faculty member to receive the tax credit described in ORS 315.613 upon certification by the Office of Rural Health.