



Oregon Senate Health Care Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 965

March 15, 2023

Chair Patterson, members of the committee,

Our organizations represent the kidney community throughout Oregon, working together to expand access to affordable care for the more than 8,400 Oregonians living with end stage renal disease that require dialysis or a transplant to survive.

We write to express our gratitude and strong support for SB 965, specifically the sections relating to hemodialysis technicians. Hemodialysis technicians are certified individuals responsible for operating dialysis machines that act as artificial kidneys by removing waste from blood and removing excess fluids from the body when kidney failure or disease prevents the kidneys from doing so.

These providers are critical parts of the dialysis care team, and SB 965 will improve the certification process which will in turn strengthen the workforce and improve patient outcomes throughout the state.

The provisions of SB 965 that we support are the product of collaborative work done with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Last year, OHA convened a Rule Advisory Committee in which members of the dialysis community participated and provided input on ways to strengthen the hemodialysis certification process. We are grateful to OHA for their work in this area. SB 965 provides OHA authorization to do the following:

- Require fingerprints of an applicant upon initial certification or renewal;
- Issue a temporary or provisional certificate immediately during a declared emergency at the local, state, or federal level; and
- Issue a certificate of reciprocity to practice as a hemodialysis technician if the person is currently authorized to practice as a technician under the laws of another state and if OHA determines the qualifications imposed by the other state are substantially equivalent.

SB 965 will help kidney patients around the state by further ensuring they have access to a qualified network of essential providers. For all these reasons, we strongly support this legislation. Please contact Nathaniel Brown at nathaniel@nwkidneycouncil.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Brown, Northwest Kidney Council
Valerie Rinck, National Kidney Foundation
Maria Garcia, Fresenius Medical Care North America
Kim Martin, DaVita