

Submitter: Erika Probst

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB703

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing about the proposed Senate Bill 703 that aims to change the testing for Nursing Assistants in Oregon. I do not support the language in SB 703. I have been a Nursing Assistant 1 (NA1) instructor for the past 5 years and in that time have worked closely with D&S Diversified Technologies LLP; Headmaster LLP, the company Oregon currently uses to administer its nursing assistant exam.

D&S Diversified Technologies LLP; Headmaster LLP also administers nursing assistant testing for 18 other states (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming). From my experience as a NA1 instructor in the state of Oregon, Headmaster has worked closely with the nursing assistant program I work for, ensuring students receive the help they need when registering for their exam as well as working with instructors twice a year to understand how skills testing is conducted and evaluated. Our working relationship with them has been professional, efficient, and effective.

The language in SB 703 would sever our relationship with Headmaster by requiring nursing assistant candidates to pass an examination developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. This would force Oregon to utilize National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The NNAAP is currently utilized in 12 other states, including Washington. It seems excessive to limit the testing to this one entity.

While the NNAAP does offer the exam in both Spanish and English, and I fully acknowledge that language can be a barrier when looking at equity, I am not aware of other reasons for this change in testing. Additionally, while I believe that bilingual healthcare workers are a huge asset to any healthcare team, with all charted communication in English, it is imperative that CNAs have a level of knowledge of both written and oral English to safely care for their patients.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Erika Probst, RN, MSN