



February 13, 2024
HB 4071 - Support

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin and members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the state's 33 local public health departments. We advocate for funding and policies that will improve the health of Oregon communities. As such, CLHO supports HB 4071 with the -1 amendment.

As you know, nurses are in very short supply. In public health, we rely on nurses to provide direct clinical services like reproductive health care and immunizations and non-clinical services like home visiting programs that help new parents get off to a good start with their babies. Any and all bottlenecks in the licensing process contribute to Oregon's workforce shortage and hamper our ability to recruit and employ folks who come from out of state or to hire new graduates. In some cases, it takes more than a year to get licensed in Oregon and applicants report spotty communication and a lack of clarity regarding the process.

This is not a new problem, but it was certainly exacerbated by the pandemic. It's time that we all come together with a legislatively-sponsored task force to identify all the pain points and figure out what resources the licensing boards need to streamline their work. As the legislature continues to invest in workforce development programs for health care clinicians, this is an important piece of the puzzle that needs to be put in place for the pipeline to flow properly.

Please support HB 4071 with the -1 amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Lochner'.

Sarah Lochner
Executive Director
Oregon CLHO

