

Written Testimony Template for HB 2948 – Hannah’s Law

Submitted to the Oregon House Committee on Behavior Health and Healthcare
01/27/2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2948 – Hannah’s Law

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is *Jennifer Fisher*, and I am a registered nurse in the K-12 school setting in *Hillsboro*, Oregon. I have been a nurse for *23 years*, with *12 years* dedicated to school nursing. I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 2948**, which ensures that only a registered nurse may supervise a nurse in a school setting concerning nursing practice.

As a school nurse, I play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of students with diverse medical needs. The complexity of my work requires adherence to professional nursing standards and clinical judgment. **HB 2948 recognizes the importance of having qualified supervision specific to nursing practice.** This distinction is essential for the following reasons:

- 1. Clinical Expertise and Patient Safety**

Nursing practice includes performing assessments, developing care plans, and managing medical emergencies. These tasks require clinical expertise that can only be effectively evaluated and supervised by another registered nurse. An administrator or non-nursing supervisor may not have the medical knowledge necessary to provide meaningful oversight in these areas. Allowing registered nurses to supervise school nurses ensures that clinical practices align with the Oregon Nurse Practice Act (ORS 678.010).

- 2. Clear Distinction Between Nursing and Administrative Functions**

HB 2948 clarifies the boundaries between clinical and non-clinical supervision. Administrators are vital to supporting the broader functions of a school nurse, such as scheduling and policy adherence. However, when it comes to decisions about patient care, only a registered nurse possesses the training to provide appropriate guidance and evaluation. This bill ensures that nurses are not placed in compromising situations where individuals evaluate their clinical judgment without a medical background.

- 3. Support for Professional Growth and Accountability**

Registered nurses are uniquely qualified to mentor and guide other nurses in clinical settings, fostering professional growth while maintaining accountability. HB 2948 creates a structure that empowers school nurses to perform their duties effectively, knowing they are supported by peers who understand the profession's nuances.

- 4. Alignment with Best Practices in Healthcare**

Healthcare settings outside of schools consistently rely on registered nurses to supervise other nurses. Extending this standard to the school environment ensures that Oregon students receive high-quality nursing care and that the nurses providing this care are supported by

appropriate clinical oversight.

Personal Story:

I consistently get calls from unlicensed assisted personnel (UAPs) on student conditions that need my nursing judgment in order to proceed. Dealing with complex health conditions like diabetes, for instance, needs daily care that involves knowing and making decisions for care. In the case of diabetes, those decisions and actions are based on the time of day, current status of the student, when the student has eaten last and when they are scheduled to eat again, whether the student has an insulin pump, whether the student is on oral medications, and other conditions the student may have. All of this must be considered in minutes when making a decision whether to give insulin, how much insulin to give, whether to have the student eat a snack and what kind of snack it should be, if this is an emergency and needs other intervention, and if and when to follow up with the student. This happens at lunch each day for a student with diabetes. So, if the student is not independent, someone without a license or education makes these decisions. As a registered nurse, I need to be there to help guide the UAP, advise the UAP, interpret the provider orders, instill confidence in the UAP, and make sure the student is getting exactly what they need at the exact time they need it to be successful not only with their health, but also their education. This is just one example of one health condition that someone without a license or specific education needs supervision and consultation from me, as a registered nurse.

In conclusion, HB 2948 provides critical safeguards for students and school nurses by ensuring clinical supervision is conducted by those with the appropriate training and expertise. I urge you to support this bill and help Oregon schools continue to provide safe, effective, and professional nursing care to our students.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional insights based on my experience.

Respectfully,

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District Nurse

Hillsboro School District serving:

Hillsboro High School, Indian Hills Elementary School, and Groner Elementary School

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