

Written Testimony for HB 2948

Submitted to the Oregon House Committee on 1/27/2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2948

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

My name is Myla Jordan, and I am a registered nurse in the K-12 school setting in Lebanon, Oregon. I have been a nurse for 9 years, with 1 year 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- Evidence based data through personal experience:

With a primary background in Critical and Intensive Care nursing, I can attest to the importance of clinical nursing oversight in relation to evidence based practice with patient centered policy and its imperativeness to favorable patient outcomes. Nursing autonomy within the Nurse Practice Act is a cornerstone of the nurses role in all patient care settings. My transition from critical care to school nursing has highlighted a student safety concern with non-medical and unlicensed personnel in administrative roles, providing oversight without the knowledge and understanding of the nursing practice laws. A specific example I experience includes site administration hiring or designating staff to work as a primary Health Aid, without the assessment of the RN to determine if this person meets the recommended qualifications for the Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) in accordance with Division 47 of the Nurse Practice Act. While unintentioned, this practice puts the Registered Nurse in a difficult position to work within their scope to safely delegate nursing tasks to a UAP that has been hired into that role by administration without appropriate clinical expertise. As stated in **The Oregon School Nurse Manual under: Division 47 (excerpted) 851-047-0030 “The decision whether or not to delegate a task of nursing care, to transfer delegation and/or to rescind delegation is the sole responsibility of the Registered Nurse based on professional judgment.”** Having qualified supervision specific to nursing practice will allow the RN the professional guidance, support and oversight required to perform nursing duties in accordance with safe, evidence-based and lawful standards.

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,

Myla J. Jordan , RN

District Nurse

Lebanon Community School District

mylajordan@gmail.com
