

Submitter: Jennifer Lenoue
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2948

Monday, January 27, 2025

Dear House Committee Members,

As the lone school district RN in Dallas since 2019, I serve a population of around 3000 students travelling between 10 campuses. Each year, I have had an increase in the number of medically fragile and chronically ill students on my caseload.

I am writing in support of House Bill 2948 that reinforces our Oregon Nurse Practice Act that only a Registered Nurse may supervise the practice of nursing and assign responsibilities to nursing staff.

My understanding is there is some confusion over what “supervision” and “assign responsibilities” means in relation to the Nurse Practice Act. I am the only RN in my district and my immediate supervisor is the SPED Director. She approves my time off, is the first to receive any complaints, and provides my yearly evaluation. What she cannot do is direct me in the specifics of the care of a student. If I have a question or concern, I will reach out to the parent, the student’s medical provider, and/or other nurses working in schools for assistance.

Let me give you an example about a current case: I have a young student with a new diagnosis of insulin dependent diabetes. When any student has a new diagnosis, they can be very medically unstable and my interactions with the student will be frequent. At this stage, both the student and the parents can also be very anxious. In this case, I have struggled in developing trust with the parent and have not previously faced this issue. I have worked with the school principal and my supervisor to assist in communication with this parent. The principal and my supervisor cannot evaluate my hands-on care of the student or the accuracy of the data I collect, but they have helped me reformat the communication paperwork that is routinely shared daily with the parent. The nursing care of the student and the recorded data on the paperwork is unchanged, but the change in the presentation of the data has been beneficial in developing trust.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you,

"Nurse Jennifer"

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Nursing Team

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