January 27, 2025

My name is Jill Tauchert, and I am a nurse, educator, and concerned citizen. I strongly oppose HB 3220 because it poses significant risks to patient safety, the integrity of RN licensure, and the quality of nursing education in Oregon.

As nursing instructors, our primary role is to protect the public by ensuring students develop the critical thinking and clinical judgment skills necessary for safe, high-quality care. This is a critical time in their development, as students must learn to recognize problems early and take action—skills emphasized in the updated NCLEX and essential in today's healthcare landscape, where patients are sicker and more complex than ever.

HB 3220 threatens our ability to provide this mentorship by limiting the time and resources needed for students to internalize these skills. Nursing education requires direct engagement with experienced instructors to provide immediate feedback and guidance. Reducing this vital support risks graduating students who are unprepared to handle the complexities of patient care, placing the public at risk.

This bill also risks weakening RN licensure standards and worsening the nursing shortage. Instead of addressing real challenges—such as the lack of clinical site availability, limited funding, and faculty shortages—HB 3220 proposes solutions that undermine long-term safety and quality in nursing education.

As educators, we are asking for respect for our own critical thinking and clinical judgment in crafting education programs that prepare students for safe, effective practice. Our job is to protect the public, and HB 3220 impedes our ability to do so.

I urge you to set aside this bill and instead support policies that expand clinical site funding, increase faculty recruitment, and strengthen simulation opportunities. These measures will ensure nursing students are prepared to meet Oregon's high standards for care.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jill Tauchert, MSN, RN, PCCN, CMSRN

Nursing Faculty

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