



## Caring for Oregon

January 28, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

In support of HB 2748

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Paige Spence, and I am the director of government relations for the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA represents a diverse community of more than 21,000 nurses, and health care professionals throughout Oregon. Together, we use our collective power to advocate for critical issues impacting patients, nurses, and health care professionals including a more effective, affordable and accessible healthcare system; better working conditions for all health care professionals; and healthier communities.

The Oregon Nurses Association strongly supports HB 2748, which provides title protection for nurses as humans. Oregon statute (ORS 678.023) already provides title protection for nurses meaning that a person can't call themselves a nurse unless they have a valid nursing degree and are licensed. This prevents unqualified people from misleading patients about their ability to provide care.

HB 2748 is a common-sense bill that extends this title protection to preserve the nursing title to be used by the individuals described in existing statute. Our members recognize that the use of AI in healthcare and in nursing may support the profession, so my testimony is not a referendum on AI. But nursing is uniquely human profession, providing critical skills and empathy for patients. This straightforward bill calls for you as policymakers to ensure that only licensed, qualified human nurses are recognized as such, and to prevent misrepresenting to a patient that AI technologies are nurses.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

*For more information, see:*

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/advocacy/state/title-nurse-protection/#:~:text=Restricting%20use%20of%20the%20title,%2C%20unscrupulous%2C%20and%20incompetent%20practitioners>

[https://www.nursingworld.org/globalassets/practiceandpolicy/nursing-excellence/ana-position-statements/the-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-nursing-practice\\_bod-approved-12\\_20\\_22.pdf](https://www.nursingworld.org/globalassets/practiceandpolicy/nursing-excellence/ana-position-statements/the-ethical-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-nursing-practice_bod-approved-12_20_22.pdf)