

Submitter: Patricia Garcia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2948

I am a school RN in Multnomah County, and I support House Bill 2948. Nurses should be supervised by nurses who understand the subtle nuances of nursing care, rather than an administrator who may not grasp why nursing interventions are as important as they are. I had a situation last school year where a student was diagnosed with a seizure disorder, and the principal wanted to exclude him from school until his medication was available. Staff had been trained by myself (an RN) how to safely manage his seizures, when to call for emergency support, etc. This student was new to the country, and being in school to learn was particularly important, as he was developing his English skills and making friends. My supervisor, also an RN, was able to find the exact laws which supported him being in school with or without medication, as long as his safety plan was in place. She helped me advocate for him to stay in school and was able to help me work with the family to obtain a dose of rescue medication to keep at school. With her help, I was able to train the appropriate staff when and how to use the medication. The student is growing and thriving now, and I feel so fortunate to have had the knowledgeable supervisor to help me advocate to keep him in school. Please help nurses help students. Thank you for your time and consideration.