



Caring for Oregon

January 28, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

In support of HB 2789

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.

I am very pleased to once again be sitting alongside our American Nurses Association president who dedicates her expertise to ensuring that the nursing profession is able to provide quality, safe, and timely patient care in communities across the country. As Representative Nelson noted, HB 2789 in particular will benefit rural and underserved communities, where we know we have a healthcare workforce shortage. Employers [face](#) chronic vacancies in long-term care, community-based settings, and rural areas despite record-high nurse numbers.

HB 2798 does not change anything related to a nurse's scope of practice, but offers greater opportunity for patients to receive services and for the funding stream to make this work possible. I know my colleague Jennifer has more to add.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.