

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2748

January 28, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Travis Nelson, and I am the State Representative for House District 44 - North and Northeast Portland.

I am writing as a registered nurse to introduce House Bill 2748, a measure to protect the integrity of the nursing profession and ensure clarity in patient care. The idea behind this bill was brought to me by the American Nurses Association.

AI technology, it is becoming a common tool in healthcare, but it should not create confusion about who is providing care. We are already seeing "AI Nurse" technology being advertised for patient care. Right now, Oregon law protects the title "nurse" for individuals, but not against its use for AI-powered systems or non-human entities. This creates a risk of misrepresentation and could undermine trust in care. Additionally, an AI program is not licensed to deliver medical care, which means there is no accountable party for any potential errors or mistakes in treatment.

HB 2748 ensures the term "nurse" is reserved for licensed HUMANS who meet Oregon's statutory qualifications and a title that is bestowed upon frontline workers who have demonstrated their abilities to provide a high level of patient care. This bill does not ban the use of AI technology from assisting in patient care but bans the use of the term "nurse" when referring to a technology. This bill is basic but essential. It protects patients and preserves the professionalism of nurses as we continue to watch AI do more and more. I urge your support for HB 2748.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis Nelson".

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland