

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2948

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 today as a registered nurse of over 20 years in strong support of Hannah's Law, House Bill 2948—a bill that will protect the safety and well-being of Oregon's most fragile students by ensuring that clinical nursing decisions in schools are made by qualified, licensed nurses.

As it stands today, school nurses are supervised by non-nurses who are not qualified to evaluate clinical nursing practice. This puts students at risk, violates the Oregon Nurse Practice Act, and undermines the ability of nurses to do their jobs effectively.

Hannah's Law provides a straightforward solution: It ensures that only registered nurses can supervise, evaluate, or assign tasks to other nurses when it comes to nursing practice. Administrators can still supervise nurses for non-clinical duties, but when it comes to health decisions, the expertise of licensed professionals must be the guiding standard.

Children have already been hurt by this lack of clarity and bad judgment. You will hear from Hannah's mother later about their experience. Washington state has enacted similar protections for school nurses, and it's time for Oregon to do the same. Our students deserve safe and effective healthcare, and our school nurses deserve the professional respect and support they need to provide it. I urge your support of HB 2948 and I look forward to working with stakeholders for an amendment that will add additional clarity to the bill.

Thank you,

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

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