



February 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Health Care

In support of SB 536

Senator Patterson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing SB 536, which would allow physician associates and nurse practitioners to work in Oregon as medical examiners.

In Oregon, full practice authority allows nurse practitioners to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training, without the need for a collaborative agreement with a physician. This means that NPs have the ability to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatment, and prescribe medications.

One of the few professions that is not currently available to nurse practitioners but that nurse practitioners have the expertise to engage in is medical examiners. Allowing nurse practitioners to be medical examiners opens additional doors for these qualified healthcare professionals and simultaneously can be a step towards relieving the medical examiner shortage in our state.

The nurse practitioner members of the Oregon Nurses Association urge your aye vote.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Paige Spence', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Paige Spence

Director of Government Relations