

March 7, 2025

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Senate Bill 529 - Relating to community health

To the Honorable Chair Patterson and members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care

My name is Ronald Steele and I am a former business owner who fell on hard times a few years ago after my wife died. My health had gone downhill drastically, and my diabetes was out of control. I knew I was in trouble and prayed for help. Shortly after that, the faith community nurse in our congregation learned I had weeping sores on my legs and came and saw me right away. She got me into the right specialists for the right care. She also found stable housing for me; I had been in a motor home without running water or heat. My life is full now. I am healthy and I now volunteer in my congregation and in the community to help others. I can surely say that if it had not been for faith community nursing in our congregation, I would not be here. I am also sure that if my wife had access to a faith community nurse prior to her passing to help us manage her chronic conditions, she would likely be alive today.

Having nurses in the community to ask questions is beyond valuable. I feel fortunate to have a faith community nurse in my congregation and wish all churches had them, as well as just more nurses in the community so we would have someone we trust to ask when we have a question. SB529 will help make this a reality.

Here are links to a couple of articles that share my story more completely.

[Albany Democrat Herald](#), March 17, 2021

[Samaritan Health Services](#), June 6, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Ronald Steele, Lebanon, OR