

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 842

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare,

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

I am here today in support of SB 842, because we all can agree on this: every Oregonian deserves safe, high-quality hospital care. But, right now, the Oregon Health Authority lacks the resources to provide effective oversight of our hospitals, leaving gaps in patient safety and hospital accountability.

SB 842 strengthens hospital licensing oversight by giving OHA the ability to respond quickly to safety incidents, improve public awareness of patient rights, and modernize outdated licensing systems. It also ensures that hospitals receive timely regulatory guidance and technical assistance to maintain compliance.

Hospital licensing fees, which fund this work, haven't been updated in over a decade, leaving OHA without the staffing or technology needed to keep up. SB 842 makes a long-overdue adjustment to these fees, bringing them closer to what many of these hospital systems already pay in Washington State

By passing this bill, we do more to protect patient safety, improve hospital accountability, and ensure that all Oregonians—including those who are chronically ill, disabled, or underserved—receive the care they deserve. From time to time, we need to update our states regulatory infrastructure and now is one of those times. I urge your support for SB 842.

Thank you,

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