



Oregon

Tina Koteck, Governor

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Good afternoon, Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 3044A. My name is Rachel Prusak. I am the Director of the Oregon State Board of Nursing. The Oregon State Board of Nursing protects the public by regulating nursing education, licensure, and practice. The OSBN staff of 60 civil servants and 9 Board members is responsible for ensuring that nursing practice in Oregon is conducted safely and professionally. OSBN regulates nearly 120,000 nurses and nursing assistants to uphold its mission of keeping Oregonians safe.

The Bill before you is a technical fix bill to update statutes that guide the Nurse Practice Act, which governs nursing practice in Oregon. Oregon's Nurse Practice Act has been developed and modified over the past 70 years leading to a patchwork of statute and rules, some of which don't reflect current nursing standards. Updating our rules to remove barriers and meet current needs without updating statutes has become challenging. HB 3044A will be a clean-up to address all inconsistent or misaligned statutes, remove unnecessary barriers, improve customer service, and enhance public safety. I submitted a detailed analysis of the language in a technical fix, but I will briefly share some highlights for the purpose of this testimony. This Technical Fix bill:

- Makes grammatical corrections and removes duplicative language.
- Updates and adds definitions. For example, updates the term "chemical dependency" with "substance use disorder," "physician," with "health care provider" and adds "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse."
- Aligns statutes to make previously licensed nurses qualify for a 90-day exception.
- Clarifies licensure requirements and reflects pathways of how nurses return to the workplace.
- Cleans up program curriculum requirements for applicants; clarifying they are the same for both in-state and endorsement applicants.
- Align the renewal frequency of all license types to two years to ensure all applicants have a full two years before they are required to renew.
- Allows fees to be refundable at the Board's discretion.
- Allows continuing education as a condition of re-licensure and clarifies that continuing education is not limited to Board-approved nursing education programs.

The Bill before you is the collaborative effort of the OSBN policy analysts and leadership team, who spent dozens of hours over the past year listening to collaborative partners and staff and combing through statutes that govern the Board to modernize, align, and remove barriers while centering public safety.

Thank you for this opportunity and I am available to answer any questions.

Rachel Prusak, MSN, APRN, FNP
Executive Director OSBN

Mission: The Oregon State Board of Nursing is committed to protecting the public through regulatory excellence and promoting the wellness of our nursing professionals.

Vision: A Safe and healthy Oregon promoted through a healthy and diverse nursing workforce.