

Submitter: Erin Collins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2789

Chair (Deb) Patterson, Vice-Chair (Cedrick) Hyden, and Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. My name is Erin Collins, and I am a registered nurse.

I write to voice my support for House Bill 2789, which is an essential step toward improving access to high quality care for many Oregonians living with chronic and serious illnesses.

The scope of practice of the registered nurse is wide, and nurses are the most trusted profession. Yet, RNs can not bill for their services without a direct order from a physician, even for nursing interventions as simple as completing an advance directive with a patient. This inability to bill means that much of a nurses time is undervalued and also not reimbursed. Therefore nurses are not often utilized to their full scope, even though this would greatly enhance the care provided to patients, increase the capacity of clinics to serve their patients, and improve access to care for homebound patients.

I write in full support of this bill to expand the ability of RNs to bill for their services. This will improve the care of so many Oregonians who trust the RN on their care team wholeheartedly and value the RNs provision of important interventions.

Thank you,

Erin Collins MN RN CHPN