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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HB 2789. I have been an RN licensed in Oregon since 1981. I have worked in Home Health and Hospice Care in Oregon since 1986.

There are a growing number of residents in Oregon who do not have primary care physicians. This number is only increasing as the shortage of primary care providers continues. By not having a "PCP" to order a service and to have it then be reimbursed, the result is that many of Oregon's citizens do not have ready access to care.

Registered nurses can accomplish so much by working with Oregon's residents to perform assessments and provide health education, among other tasks allowed under their scope of practice. A good example is Advance Care Planning (ACP). As the population of Oregonians over age 65 increases, more ACP needs to be provided. RNs can help to meet the need for more ACP education. This will allow Oregonians to express their choices for health care and align the care they receive with their wishes. This also allows for optimal use of our health care resources.

By allowing RNs to be compensated for the work they do without first requiring a physician's order, more care can be provided to Oregonians. I urge the committee's support for HB 2789.

Respectfully submitted,

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