

Submitter: Lisa Ledson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2948

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

My name is Lisa Ledson. I'm a registered nurse and the mother of Hannah, a 7th grader with complex medical needs and the namesake of HB 2948.

Hannah is a bright, funny, and social teen who wants what every 7th grader wants—to be in school, learn, and spend time with her friends. She also lives daily with intractable epilepsy, quadriplegic cerebral palsy, feeding tube dependency, limited verbal language, and intellectual and developmental disabilities—medical complexities that require consistent, licensed nursing support each day to ensure she can safely access her education.

There was a time when she was denied that support, not because a nurse wasn't available, but because someone without medical training decided that her needs did not require nursing care.

That decision led to my husband and me being required to be in school every day to feed her through her G-tube to prevent vomiting and the risk of aspiration, tasks that carry serious health risks if not done correctly. No child's safety should ever depend on a decision made by someone unqualified to assess clinical risk. That is simply unsafe.

This is not an isolated experience. Families across Oregon face similar challenges when their children require medical care during the school day. The current system often allows individuals without medical licensure to make decisions about a student's health needs—decisions that qualified, licensed nurses should make. This gap in oversight can lead to inconsistent care, placing students with complex medical needs in vulnerable situations.

HB 2948 corrects that. It ensures that only licensed nurses can direct nursing care in schools, just as we require in every healthcare setting. It's a practical and necessary step to protect the health, dignity, and educational access of students like Hannah.

I am deeply grateful to the sponsors of this bill for recognizing the urgent need for this legislation.

Please vote yes on HB 2948.

Thank you,

Lisa Ledson, BSN, RN
West Linn