



January 27, 2025

**SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2948**

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and all Members of the Committee:

Multnomah ESD's School Health Services department serves almost 100,000 students across 8+ districts in the Multnomah County region. We employ over 75 nurses and over 80 School Health Assistants to support our partner districts in removing health-related barriers to education. We are pleased that our department has a 50-year history of providing these necessary services. We strongly support **HB 2948**, which will ensure that only a registered nurse may supervise a nurse in a school setting when it comes to nursing practice.

At MESD, we are fortunate to have an infrastructure that supports effective school nursing practice, including a team of Nurse Administrators that oversee our population-based, complex needs and 1:1 nurses. However, not every nurse practicing in the K-12 setting across the state of Oregon has this luxury. Many are a team of 1 and are supervised by an education professional instead of a health professional. While this can work for typical employment expectations (attendance, interactions with others), it can be a danger when it comes to having a non-nurse providing oversight of nursing practice. Education professionals do not have the background and/or training necessary to evaluate nursing judgement. **HB 2948** will ensure that this potentially dangerous practice doesn't continue.

In my first position practicing nursing in Oregon schools, I spent 9 years as the primary nurse for a district of about 3,000 students. During those 9 years, I was supervised by a range of education administrators - School Principal, Superintendent, Human Resources Director. While they were able to support my role in relation to how it fit into the educational goals, I often had to seek outside guidance to support my nursing practice.

In conclusion, **HB 2948** would provide critical safeguards for students and nurses practicing in the K-12 setting by ensuring that supervision of clinical nursing practice is not done by those without



appropriate training and expertise. I hope that you can support this bill to help Oregon schools provide safe, effective and professional nursing care for students.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional insights based on my experience.

Respectfully,

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