

Written Testimony Template for HB 2948

*Submitted to the Oregon House Committee on Behavior Health and Healthcare Committee
1/28/25*

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2948

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

My name is Lisa Branch, and I am a registered nurse in the K-12 school setting in Hillsboro School District, Oregon. I have been a nurse for 30 years, with 18 years dedicated to school nursing. I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 2948**, which ensures that only a registered nurse may supervise a nurse in a school setting concerning nursing practice.

As a school nurse, I play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of students with diverse medical needs. The complexity of my work requires adherence to professional nursing standards and clinical judgment. **HB 2948 recognizes the importance of having qualified supervision specific to nursing practice.** This distinction is essential for the following reasons:

1. Clinical Expertise and Patient Safety

Nursing practice includes performing assessments, developing care plans, and managing medical emergencies. These tasks require clinical expertise that can only be effectively evaluated and supervised by another registered nurse. An administrator or non-nursing supervisor may not have the medical knowledge necessary to provide meaningful oversight in these areas. Allowing registered nurses to supervise school nurses ensures that clinical practices align with the Oregon Nurse Practice Act (ORS 678.010).

2. Clear Distinction Between Nursing and Administrative Functions

HB 2948 clarifies the boundaries between clinical and non-clinical supervision. Administrators are vital to supporting the broader functions of a school nurse, such as scheduling and policy adherence. However, when it comes to decisions about patient care, only a registered nurse possesses the training to provide appropriate guidance and evaluation. This bill ensures that nurses are not placed in compromising situations where individuals evaluate their clinical judgment without a medical background.

3. Support for Professional Growth and Accountability

Registered nurses are uniquely qualified to mentor and guide other nurses in clinical settings, fostering professional growth while maintaining accountability. HB 2948 creates a structure that empowers school nurses to perform their duties effectively, knowing they are supported by peers who understand the profession's nuances.

4. **Alignment with Best Practices in Healthcare**

Healthcare settings outside of schools consistently rely on registered nurses to supervise other nurses. Extending this standard to the school environment ensures that Oregon students receive high-quality nursing care and that the nurses providing this care are supported by appropriate clinical oversight.

Personal Story:

There was an incident at my middle school of a student that came to the health room and reported overdosing using Acetaminophen in an attempt of death by suicide. I instructed staff to call 911, as medical professionals know that an overdose can potentially lead to liver damage and death. When I called back to follow up and to make sure the student was transported, the principal had decided that 911 was not necessary and had the parent come and pick up the student. The same parent that the student had talked about the ingestion, and the parent had sent them to school.

In conclusion, HB 2948 provides critical safeguards for students and school nurses by ensuring clinical supervision is conducted by those with the appropriate training and expertise. I urge you to support this bill and help Oregon schools continue to provide safe, effective, and professional nursing care to our students.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional insights based on my experience.

Respectfully,

Lisa Branch RN, BSN

District Nurse

Hillsboro School District

branchl@hsd.k12.or.us phone: 503-844-1420
