



Oregon

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Board of Nursing

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February 11, 2015

Before the
Senate Committee on Health Care

SB 284

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 284. The purpose of the bill is to prevent individuals who have not had state-approved nursing assistant training and competency testing from using the title of “nursing assistant” or “Certified Nursing Assistant.”

Senate Bill 284 would increase public safety by avoiding misrepresentation by unlicensed medical personnel. The bill would prohibit an individual working in a health care profession from using the title “Certified Nursing Assistant,” “nursing assistant,” “nurse aide,” or the abbreviation “CNA” in connection with the profession unless the individual:

1. Is working for up to four months from the date of hire in a licensed nursing facility; or
2. Has successfully completed an Oregon-approved nursing assistant training program and is certified by the Oregon State Board of Nursing as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

The concept also allows individuals who are currently enrolled in Board-approved nursing assistant training programs to use the title “student nursing assistant.”

Curriculum and training requirements for CNAs are federally-mandated by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1987 in order to protect individuals who are residents of long-term care facilities. While we understand that not all CNAs work in long-term care facilities, we wish to extend those requirements by ensuring that only those who are on our CNA registry are allowed to call themselves CNAs.

The Board has discussed the concept broadly with stakeholders and has received support from the Oregon Health Care Association, Leading Age Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Human Services’ Office of Licensing/Regulatory Oversight. There is no known opposition, and we anticipate no fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

The Board would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 284.