



## **Testimony in Support of HB 3391**

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March 15, 2017

Chair Greenlick, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3391, on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. With 15,000 members working in nearly every setting throughout the state, ONA is dedicated to ensuring that all patients have affordable access to the vital reproductive health care services that serve to improve outcomes in our communities.

With the imminent repeal of the Affordable Care Act, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians could lose no-cost-share coverage for essential reproductive health services. When the cost of care must first come out of a high deductible, these services can be unaffordable and inaccessible for many. This is particularly problematic for women seeking abortion — a time-sensitive and critical service that 1 in 3 women access by the time they are 45.

Furthermore, 48,000 women of reproductive age in Oregon are categorically excluded from Medicaid due to their citizenship status and are prohibited from purchasing insurance with their own money on the Exchange. These women have coverage that ends immediately after labor and delivery, leaving them without care during the postpartum period, a pivotal time for both mother and baby development.

Finally, transgender and gender-nonconforming Oregonians need access to services often categorized as “women’s health care,” including gender-specific cancer screenings. However, procedural barriers hinder access to this necessary and lifesaving care.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act establishes comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services — including family planning, abortion and postpartum care — for all Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance. Restrictions on reproductive health care can have profoundly harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care. This legislation ensures that all Oregonians are able to decide if and when they have children, based on what is best for them and their family’s circumstances.

Nurses know that Oregonians need access to the full range of reproductive coverage in order for all families to thrive and to ensure that certain patients are not excluded from crucial health care services.

ONA urges your support for HB 3391.