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OREGON NURSES ASSOCIATION ENDORSES GOVERNOR KITZHABER

TUALATIN Ore. - - Citing his extraordinary commitment to the critical role nurses and nurse practitioners play in ensuring Oregon’s citizens receive the highest quality health care and to improving patient outcomes, the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) announced their endorsement of Gov. John Kitzhaber this week.

ONA Executive Director Susan King, MS, RN, CEN, FAAN, said "Governor Kitzhaber has been a strong leader on the issues we care about including providing universal access to high quality, cost effective care. ONA is proud to endorse Governor Kitzhaber."

During his speech at ONA’s biennial convention last month, the Governor highlighted progress Oregon has made towards improving its health care system, noting that the state’s innovative network of Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) is saving Oregon millions of dollars in Medicaid costs.

“I’m thrilled to have the support of the Oregon Nurses Association. We’re making great strides in Oregon to improve health outcomes while expanding access to preventative care. Nurses play a vital role in that work,” said Gov. Kitzhaber in response to ONA’s endorsement.

Jennifer Barr, DNP, FNP-C, RN, a nurse practitioner and a member of the Oregon Nurses Association also applauded the Governor’s history of supporting the goals of the nursing profession. “Governor Kitzhaber has always been a proponent of nurses’ efforts to improve health care. He understands that nurses work on the front lines and can often identify preventative care interventions that improve patient health and avoid acute health crises. As a new nurse practitioner, I appreciate the Governor’s work to ensure that nurses have all the tools we need to care for Oregonians,” she said.
ONA was founded in 1904 as the professional association for nurses in Oregon. It is a nonprofit association and a labor union representing registered nurses. ONA's mission is to advocate for nursing and quality health care.

To view a YouTube video that includes portions of the Governor's address at ONA's convention please click here. http://youtu.be/jlZiyJWU-s

To find out more about Governor Kitzhaber’s history of advocating for better health care, visit the website johnkitzhaber.com.

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