

**ELIZABETH STEINER HAYWARD MD**  
**STATE SENATOR**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**DISTRICT 17**

April 5, 2013

Chair Tomei and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 3131. All reasonably large health care centers have to make a decision about how to address periodic staffing shortages that happen because of unusually high workloads or due to the temporary absence of permanent staff members. I support the concept behind this bill because a permanent pool of nurses provides significant benefits over relying on temporary nurses.

Most significantly, permanent float pool nurses receive training on an institution's systems and procedures. Thus, when there is a staffing shortage, permanent float pool nurses are ready to step in immediately. This improves patient care. In addition, it often ends up being more cost effective for the institution because they do not need to provide constant training for temporary nurses.

Obviously every institution is different and specific details about how to establish a float pool can be difficult to work out. I do believe, however, that this is an idea that has merit. I thank the committee for considering House Bill 3131 and I hope that those involved can figure out how to implement a float pool at the Oregon State Hospital.

Sincerely,

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward MD  
Oregon Senate District 17

