



February 16, 2015

**Support SB 469 –A Amendments**

Chair Monnes-Anderson members of the committee, for the record my name is Laura Johnson I am a member of SEIU Local 49 and a Certified Nursing Assistant II (CNAII) at McKenzie Willamette Hospital in Eugene Oregon.

I have been a CNA for seven years, and I love my work and my patients. I am getting ready to turn fifty this year, and I am not looking for a career change this work is what I enjoy doing. Over the last decade my hospital has been sold and bought three times and now I work at one of the two for profit hospitals in the state of Oregon. This last year we went on strike for three days of issues of quality care at my hospital.

I can have between fifteen and thirty patients on a shift. When that happens I don't get to critical jobs like bathes, teeth brushed, which is an issue of comfort but also of important hygiene. I also don't get to critical care issues like getting vitals entered in a timely manner or walking patients. Coverage for breaks is a big issue, my hospital shifts CNA's around from floor to floor creating even more shortages.

I think of my patients as if they are my family in the hospital. I want them to be treated with respect and dignity. When we don't have enough staffing I don't feel like I can give proper care and that is not the care provider I want to be. I am supporting Senate Bill 469 with the dash A amendments because I think we know that hospitals are not going to make this choice on their own they haven't done that.

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