

Christina Robinson, RN, BSN, MSCN
Testimony in Support of SB 469
February 16, 2015

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee:

My name is Christina Robinson, and I am a Registered Nurse currently practice in an Ambulatory Surgery department (including PACU, Short Stay & Cath Lab Recovery) in a medium sized hospital.

I am writing to urge your support of SB 469--ONA's Hospital Nurse Staffing bill. The bill proposed would directly impact patient care in a positive manner, by ensuring patient safety through adequate staffing. Additionally, it would empower those individuals who work on the floor with direct patient care to be involved in determining adequate staffing levels, as opposed to people removed from patient contact. The proposed SB 469 will also hold hospitals accountable for providing staff staffing levels by instituting mandatory follow-up on "Unsafe Staffing Reports" and periodic audits.

As a well versed nurse with over ten years' experience, words cannot adequately describe the frustration of being unable to safely provide care for your patient, due to lack of staff. As one of countless stories to emphasize my point, when working in a specialty unit on swing shift (11:00-19:30), there were multiple evenings in which our own hospital staffing guidelines (three patients: one nurse) were not followed due to insufficient staffing, and I would be responsible for monitoring five to six patients, many with arterial punctures from Cath Lab procedures. In this setting it is physically impossible to complete the required every ten minute checks to monitor for arterial bleeding. When brought to the attention of administration through unsafe staffing reports, there is no follow-up and these situations continue to present themselves to the detriment of patient care.

The responsibility of caring for other's well-being is not to be taken lightly and should be encouraged with adequate and appropriate staffing, based on each individual hospital department. I urge your support of SB 469 to ensure all of Oregon's nurses have a voice in ensuring adequate staffing for their patients.

Sincerely,

Christina Robinson, RN, BSN, MSCN