

Lucinda Lathrom, RN, CNOR
Testimony in Support of SB 469
February 16, 2015

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lucinda Lathrom. I am a Registered Nurse from Corvallis. I practice in the Operating Room of an increasingly busy hospital. We serve many outlying areas from the coast to inland.

I am writing to urge your support of SB 469--ONA's Hospital Nurse Staffing bill. I have been on the Staffing Committee at our Hospital, who meets once every other month, for 1 hour. It has been a slow process, going through all the hospital staffing plans with only the every other month meeting times. There has not been enough time to address staffing inconsistencies that have been written up by the nurses.

I am also on the Professional Nursing Care Committee (PNCC) for our hospital. The PNCC committee reviews the short staffing notifications nurses submit. There is consistently a lack of action to issues brought up about staffing problems.

The current rules for ensuring adequate staffing levels are not quite working. I hear a lot of the nurses I work with state that they would not leave a family member alone in the hospital, as the staffing is unpredictable, and they are dealing with staffing issues continually on the nursing floors, as well as the emergency room.

Nursing positions do not seem to be posted, ever since we had a reorganization of our hospital staffing hours for nurses.

I urge your support of SB 469 to ensure all of Oregon's nurses have a voice in ensuring adequate staffing for their patients.

Thank you,

Lucinda Lathrom, RN, CNOR
PNCC Co-Chair