



Chair Salinas and members of the committee, for the record my name is Amanda Newman, I am a member of SEIU local 49 and I've been a Certified Nursing Assistant for 6 years at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Springfield. I sit on my Hospital's Nurse Staffing Committee and am also the sole CNA member of the Oregon Nurse Staffing Advisory Board. I'm here asking for you to support of HB 2945 because I am committed to safe staffing of healthcare workers in Oregon hospitals.

The chronic issue of understaffing is a prevalent problem at my work place and it's not uncommon for short staffing to occur and not have the resources we need. I work a 12 hour shift where I am entitled to over an hours' worth of lunch and rest breaks, but I am often unable to take them. This is because I often care for 9 or more patients during my shift. I assist with three meals, vital signs and blood sugar checks, assistance with bathing, and helping turn and ambulate patients who cannot do so on their own. Our patients are sicker than when I first became a CNA, requiring more hands on care and more time of frontline CNAs and nurses at the bedside. Yet we have less staff being pushed to provide more care than when I started. We have been expected to do more with less staff for far too long. We simply can't get all the work we are assigned done, even on the days when we aren't short staffed.

During shifts when we are understaffed it is a challenge to simply get everyone a hot meal or even their call lights answered. Some shifts we can't get to a call light soon enough and a patient doesn't make it to the bathroom in time and I feel terrible. I want to provide my patients with the care they deserve, but we don't have enough staff. I want to be able to hold my patients hands when they are upset or scared, or help them to the bathroom in time, but my phone is always ringing with three other patients calling and two or more bed alarms of patients getting out of bed without help. So I run and run to try to do it all and I don't get my breaks because I have patients who need me. I already know that I won't be able to get all the baths and showers I have been assigned done. I cry at the end of many shifts because I'm doing everything I can and it's still not enough.

Additionally, having one CNA representative on the hospital nurse staffing committee has made it difficult to address these issues I mentioned. Often, we don't have enough time to discuss CNA issues at length and it's difficult when I'm the only voice in the room speaking about these issues on behalf of all CNA's. Having two CNA's on the staffing committee would allow for more frontline staff to be heard and potentially address the staffing issues that we often face.

Our patients deserve more, our CNAs and nurses deserve more. I urge you to support HB 2945 in order for CNA's like myself who are striving everyday to make sure that patients are treated with respect, dignity and receive the care that they need.

1-800-955-3352  
MAIN OFFICE

503-238-6692  
FAX

3536 SE 26<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
PORTLAND, OR 97202

@SEIU49  
TWITTER

SEIU LOCAL 49  
FACEBOOK

WWW.SEIU49.ORG