

Providence Health & Services
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March 19, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Health Care Committee
State Capital
Salem, Oregon

Re: HB 2945 – Expansion of nurse staffing requirements

Dear Representative Salinas and members of the committee,

On behalf of Providence Health & Services, thank you for the opportunity to outline our concerns regarding House Bill 2945 - the proposed expansion of nurse staffing requirements.

Providence is committed to developing more collaborative partnerships with our nurse caregivers to improve work satisfaction and provide a better care experience for our patients. As part of these efforts Providence was a strong supporter of comprehensive, consensus nurse staffing legislation that passed in 2015. Additionally, I was one of several system CNOs representing hospitals in the state and working with our labor organization in a collaborative way to obtain the language we have today. House Bill 2945 was not developed through a similar, collaborative process and includes provisions that should raise concerns.

In addition to improving nurse staffing standards statewide, there has been significant attention paid to making sure providers across the continuum are working at the top of their license. Certified nursing assistants play an important role in providing a connected experience of care, however, accountability for evaluating staffing and monitoring patient outcomes is beyond their scope of practice. The Oregon State Board of Nursing has clear definitions about the delegation of responsibilities from registered nurses to CNAs – state statute should not supersede these standards.

We respectfully request that the committee oppose this approach. Further consideration about changes to the nurse staffing law should be worked out through the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board, as envisioned by the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Tatman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Judy Tatman, MSHA, BSN, RN
Chief Nursing Officer
Providence Health & Services - Oregon