



PLEASE JOIN NURSES AND HOSPITALS IN SUPPORTING HB 4032

HB 4032 will provide OHA funding for the purposes of supporting the recommendations from the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board (NSAB).

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature modernized the nurse staffing law (SB 469) to include timelines for surveys and complaint investigations, as well as factors for Hospital Nurse Staffing Committees (HNSC) to consider when formulating nurse staffing plans. The bill also expanded the composition of the HNSC to include a CNA while maintaining balance on the committees. The final component of the bill was the creation of the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board (NSAB) to advise the Oregon Health Authority on the current practices and trends of nurse staffing. This bill was carefully crafted and mutually supported by the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) and the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS). At the time, no additional funding was provided to OHA for the implementation of these changes.

Since the passage of SB 469, stakeholders have been working collaboratively to implement the hospital nurse staffing modernization changes that were approved by the Legislature. By the end of 2019, all 62 hospitals (not including the state hospital) had their initial tri-annual hospital nurse staffing (HSN) survey by the OHA's Public Health Division. However, insufficient resources have prevented adequate attention to other important parts of the statute which continue to impact nurse staffing.

The first round of surveys has been a challenging learning period with many lessons learned. As stakeholders and OHA enter the second tri-annual round of surveys, the NSAB put forth recommendations to the Governor's Office that would improve the process going forward. These recommendations included proposals to address concerns with the survey process, toolkit, surveyor competency, OHA capacity, and how to strengthen the role of NSAB. Both ONA and OAHHS supported this set of recommendations.

The funding from HB 4032 will be applied to supporting these recommendations with a focus on hiring and providing training to surveyors as well as a manager with nurse staffing experience.

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