

February 4, 2020

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4032, funding for nurse staffing implementation

Chair Salinas and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

I am the Chief Nursing Officer at Salem Health, a local hospital and health system in the mid-Willamette Valley. I am writing to urge your support of HB 4032.

In 2015, Oregon's nurse staffing law expanded significantly. This expansion came without additional resources for the Oregon Health Authority to use when implementing and administrating the new requirements. This has resulted in delays for hospital nurse staffing committees seeking to comply with the intent of the law and satisfy any deficiencies found with nurse staffing plans.

Salem Health serves on the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board, which represents front line nurses and nurse managers. The Board works collaboratively to give the Oregon Health Authority firsthand perspective into implementation of the nurse staffing law. Salem Health supports the recommendations made by the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board, including the funding proposed in HB 4032. I believe these changes will result in faster turnaround of staffing surveys and a stronger role for the Nurse Staffing Advisory Board, both of which will translate to better patient care.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge your support of HB 4032.

Sincerely,



Sarah Horn, RN
Chief Nursing Officer
Salem Health