



Testimony in Support of HB 3016
February 23, 2021
House Committee On HealthCare
Mary Romanaggi, RN

Greetings Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee.

My name is Mary Romanaggi, and I member of Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). Today I submit, to you, testimony in support of HB 3016 as one of ONA's 15,000 registered nurses, Nurse Practitioners of Oregon, and professional member affiliates throughout the state. I am honored to be one of those Nurses and helping to represent our organization.

I support HB 3016, Oregon's Nurse Staffing Law serves as a national model, providing high quality patient care, resulting from the ongoing collaboration between nursing professionals and the facilities in which they work.

My personal experience with unsafe staffing at Providence has prompted me to submit reports to OHA. I did so because many of my colleagues and other RNs believe there were violations of our staffing plans. The Response from OHA was slow and at least a month or two went before I received written response to my formal complaints and as many investigations into these complaints are still on going by OHA due to a slowdown in on-site investigations. I believe that without having strong staffing plans we could easily find ourselves back in these same situations is not rectified.

Unfortunately, insufficient funding to support OHA's implementation has prevented effective oversight, inconsistent with current law. This bill, which received broad Senate and House support during our 2020 legislative session, would provide the necessary funding to bring the department into compliance to ensure staffing plan deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.

I support HB 3016, and we ask that you vote favorably to move the bill out of committee.

Sincerely

Mary Romanaggi. RN