



Testimony in Support of House Bill 3011 and House Bill 3016

February 23, 2021

House Committee on Health Care

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Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee:

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 represents about 27,000 public and private-sector employees that provide public service to Oregonians across the state. Many of our members are health care providers including nurses who have been and continue to risk their health and safety to care for our communities.

Oregon AFSCME supports HB 3011, which would provide appropriate resource to OHA to ensure provisions of Oregon's nurse staffing law are fulfilled and HB 3016 which would update nurse staffing law processes under executive order.

HB 3011 appropriates moneys from the General fund to OHA, in support of the understaffed department that currently manages implementation of the nurse staffing program and to ensure compliance. By appropriating this funding, necessary program improvements can be implemented to bring the department into compliance to ensure staffing plan deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.

HB 3016 addresses an oversight in current law related to executive order declaration. Currently, nurse staffing plans are suspended until the executive order expires or is rescinded. Due to the pandemic, nurses have experienced an unforeseen flaw in this blanked suspension of the nurse staffing committee and its related staffing plans. This statutory amendment would center the needs of patients by maintaining the collaborative, solution-based framework of hospital nurse staffing committees and is a proactive approach to emergency preparedness.

Support and passage of HB 3011 and HB 3016 sends a clear message that Oregon supports our nurses and the work they do to keep our communities safe. Please vote yes on HB 3011 and HB 3016.