

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

My name is Erica Swartz. I am a nurse and a member of Oregon Nurses Association. I am pleased to be one of the nurse members submitting testimony to you today in support of HB 3011.

COVID and working on the front lines have laid bare both the important roles nurses play and their working condition. I have worked at OHSU for over 12 years, been on the hospital staffing committee since 2017 and taken over as co-chair at the beginning of this year. Our staffing committee has passed less than 10% of our plans. Bedside nurses and their nurse manager counterparts in the committee unanimously vote down plans that do not meet the requirements of the law. Nursing executives successfully obstruct the creation of safe plans created by and for nurses because there is not enforcement.

Health care institutions must be held accountable to the law. OHSU was last surveyed in 2017, nearly 4 years ago. Multiple complaints to OHA have been filed with no resolution. Corrective plans of action have been written but not fully implemented. Insufficient funding to support OHA's implementation has prevented effective oversight, inconsistent with current law. OHA must be adequately funded to be able to do the job with which they were tasked. Until then, patient and nurse safety continues to be compromised.

I fully support HB 3011 and ask that you do too. Please vote favorably to move the bill out of committee to support and protect us like we continue to support and protect the entire state.