



Testimony in Support of HB 3011

February 23, 2021

House Committee On HealthCare

Travis Nelson, RN (Portland)

Greetings Chair Prusak and members of the committee.

My name is Travis Nelson, and I and the Vice Chair of the Oregon Nurses Association Cabinet on Health Policy. Today I submit, to you, testimony in support of HB 3011 as one of ONA's 15,000 Nurse members from around our great state. I am honored to be one of those Nurses and helping to represent our organization.

I support HB 3011 because Oregon's Nurse Staffing Law serves as a national model, providing safe, high quality patient care that results when nursing professionals and the facilities in which they work, collaborate effectively on creating staffing plans that the parties are committed to.

According to research from Johns Hopkins medical errors are the 3rd leading cause of death in the United States. Nurses are responsible for catching the vast majority of medical errors that don't lead to patient harm. We also know that the better the hospital staffing and more rested the nurse, the more likely it is that Nurses will catch errors that could lead to adverse impacts on patients. It is imperative that the legislature do all that it can to protect a Nurses say in how they are staffed. This funding fix is much needed and will decrease the likelihood that members of the public will be injured or suffer unexpected death when they are hospitalized. Looking back over my 16 year career, my errors often came when I was working under conditions in which my unit was short staffed.

It is crucial that OHA be adequately funded to ensure that hospitals and applicable healthcare facilities comply with the 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. Your life or the life of someone you love may one day be saved because you voted to ensure that nurses voices will be heard.

I support HB 3011, and we ask that you vote to move the bill out of committee.

Thank You!

