

February 20, 2023

Beth Pogonowski
PO Box 4881
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RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2697

Dear Chair Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair Travis Nelson, and Committee Members:

My name is Beth Pogonowski and I am a nurse at St. Charles Medical Center, Bend.

On January 11, 2023 I was precepting a brand new RN resident who had just started working at the end of December. The 3 RN s who had residents that day on the unit were all given 4 patients each and were told that, because we were 2 RNs, we would not be assigned a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA). The message to RNS is that, if you are will to step up to help teach new graduate nurses when there are not enough staff, you get short staffed. Needless to say, that 12 hour shift was horrible . We did not get a single break and, in my 34 + years at St Charles it was one of my most unsafe, unmanageable assignments ever. I cried at the end of my shift. It does not have to be this way, and HB 2697 creates the safe staffing minimums we need to ensure these horrible shifts don't happen in the future.

The nurse-to-patient minimum safe staffing standards included in this bill were created based on regulations in other states, proposed federal legislation, and an analysis of current staffing practices in Oregon. Research shows that the biggest impact on the nursing work environment is the workload of a nurse's assignment. This bill is based on an analysis of hospital staffing plans and practices across the state. The data is clear: hospitals that staff more closely to the minimums proposed in the law have lower rates of nurse turnover, which is the real nurse staffing crisis in Oregon.

Thank you,

Beth Pogonowski