

Sydney, RN
Medford, OR

February 20, 2023

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care in Support of HB 2702

My name is Sydney and I am a nurse.

I was precepting a new graduate nurse while I was assigned two rooms with the same labor-intensive immunotherapy drug, as well as two other rooms, for four total patients. This particular new graduate nurse was struggling and needed a lot of intensive support and supervision. My two immunotherapy rooms required vital signs and titration every 30 minutes, and I ended up making a medication error that I normally would not have made, running this drug with an incompatible IV fluid and potentially compromising the drug's stability/efficacy. These errors occur when nurses are overworked due to unsafe staffing levels.

The attention to detail needed to take care of cancer patients is routinely dismissed by hospital management and nurses are afraid to become chemo certified due to lack of staff and support. Errors can result in less efficacious treatment at best and be life threatening at worst.

If I had cancer and needed inpatient treatment, I would be afraid for my life given the current levels of staffing in most cancer units.

HB 2697 will save lives, and I urge you to support this important legislation.

Urging your support,

Sydney