

Submitter: Jaime Rodriguez  
On Behalf Of: AFT-Oregon  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2697

Dear Chair Noose and committee members,

My name is Jaime Rodriguez, I reside in Woodburn and am President of AFT-Oregon, a state labor federation of educators in K-12 and Higher Education both faculty and classified positions. We, stand with ONA and other labor organizations in support of HB 2697. Nurses are in need of relief and patients need healthcare workers who are on regular shifts, well rested and have their regular breaks as required by law. This is not occurring. As a patient in late August, early Sept of 2022, I spent 9 days in the hospital. This does not include the 8 hours spent in the emergency where a non-emergency healthcare provider had to conduct x-ray due to low staffing. I was not only NOT admitted to the hospital that I went for my emergency but transferred to a cross-town hospital where staffing was more stable. It really wasn't I discovered that nurses were working up to 4 hrs. beyond the shift ended time, working double shifts. A few nurses were traveling nurses from other states. Nurses answered the call when our nation was overwhelmed with Covid 19. For over 2 years they cared and nursed the people of this nation. However, many left as they could not sustain the amount of work that was being required of them. This despite giving all and their deep passion for caring for others. As we slowly calm down from the Covid pandemic, nurses are still being asked to do more beyond a required shift and take more patients to oversee on the floor. For my members, their families, communities and nurses themselves, We at the 18k member strong AFT-Oregon ask you to pass house bill 2697 out of committee and take to the house floor for a full vote.

In Solidarity,

Jaime Rodriguez,  
President AFT-Oregon