

Submitter: Amy Molloy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Amy Molloy and I am a Labor and Delivery RN at OHSU

I have been a nurse for 30 years, all of them here in Oregon, and I can tell you inadequate staffing is no new issue. There is a dysfunctional expectation that nurses will do more with less, go the extra mile, and be the "hero" at our own expense. We have been sacrificing for far too long and we are burning out at a record pace. ??We all know that Oregon had a staffing shortage long before the pandemic. Yes, the COVID 19 pandemic has made already existing staffing issues worse, and Oregon is now facing a full-blown crisis as countless overworked and undervalued healthcare workers leave the bedside in search of safer working conditions, better pay, or simply leaving their profession entirely. Nurses and other health care workers have been asking hospital executives and managers for help for more than a decade, and we have not gotten it. HB 2697 seeks to address many of the root causes of this crisis including requiring minimum safe nurse staffing and enforcement of legally required rest and meal breaks. The problem in Oregon is not that we don't have enough nurses. The problem is we don't have enough nurses who are willing to work in these conditions. Please, help nurses and our patients by passing HB 2697.

?Sincerely yours,

Amy Molloy RN BSN