

Submitter: Russell Lum

On Behalf Of: Lottie Schmidt RN

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Support HB 2697

Nurses are not only doing their job, but that of the Certified Nursing Assistant, food service attendant, Health Unit Coordinator, telemetry tech, Respiratory Therapist, etc., with no additional compensation. When we are short staffed, it is always just assumed that nurses will make it work. This is taking advantage of us. Staffing variances were encouraged in my unit, but were always disseminated in a way that management could rationalize it. They continue to ask us (in the variances) “what could be done to change this?” but don’t like our answers of increasing staffing. Also, it is not the floor nurse’s responsibility to figure out how to staff the unit. This is a managerial task. —Lottie Schmidt, RN at Portland acute care hospital