

Jacqueline Furuno
February 23, 2023

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

My name is Jacqueline Furuno and I am a nurse at Oregon Health & Science University in the Doernbecher Children's Hospital in the Post anesthesia care unit (PACU) and Pediatric ICU. Management at hospitals across Oregon have shared dozens of messages praising nurses as "heroes," while, at the same time, ignoring our repeated pleas for assistance. To be frank, these last few years have been extremely difficult for nurses. We don't care about being called heroes; we want help.

We need more staff.

Safe staffing ratios are directly correlated with less medical errors. Would you want your loved one to be cared for by a nurse that was being stretched thin? We're human and it's easy to miss the little things when we've got a lot on our plate. Little things add up to big things QUICKLY with our critically ill patients. Being one of the most profitable critical access hospitals in Oregon, my hospital should be putting our patients before profits. It's the moral and humane thing to do. Our community deserves better. Oregon's nurses deserve better, and our patients deserve more staff.

I have been asked to be a bedside nurse for an intubated COVID-19 patient and a critical airway patient. At the same time. How does one provide this life saving care to both simultaneously? There's simply not enough staff. Instead, I'm asked to prioritize which patient can last longer while de-satting. I'm asked to take short cuts doffing and donning my PPE to get from one patient to the next. To put myself, my family and patient's at risk.

Please support HB 2697 and give nurses what they really need: help.

Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline Furuno
RN, BSN, CCRN