

Submitter: Samuel Danaceau

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Samuel Danaceau  
Portland, OR

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Testimony in Support of HB 2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Samuel Danaceau and I am a nurse in the CVICU at OHSU hospital in Portland.

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, and in order to recruit and retain staff we need laws in place enforcing safe staffing ratios.

Safe staffing ratios are directly correlated with fewer medical errors. As nurses, we work long shifts in fast paced and intense environments. When we are inadequately staffed it means that we don't get breaks to eat, drink, go to the bathroom, or even sit down. It is impossible to work safely and provide adequate care to our patients under these conditions. During a 12 hour shift, I typically am able to take one 30-45 minute break. But sometimes even that is not possible due to short staffing. On top of that, inadequate staffing means that we are forced to take on unsafe patient assignments, either regarding the number of patients in the assignment or the acuity of the patients in the assignment. It is completely unreasonable to expect nurses to provide adequate care for our patients when we are stretched too thin. There are plenty of nurses in Oregon, but there are not enough who are willing to work under these conditions. Prioritizing hospital profits over our patients is immoral and shameful. We are here to help our communities, not maximize profits off of the suffering of others. When you consider this bill please keep in mind that the patients all of us refer to could be you, your loved ones, your friends, your neighbors, etc. We all deserve better.

Please support HB 2697 and give nurses the resources we need to keep our patients

safe

Sincerely,

Samuel Danaceau