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RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

My name is Jennifer Rohner, and I am a nurse at Oregon Health and Science University in outpatient oncology Navigation.

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, especially when dealing with the complex nuances of patients with rare and aggressive cancers. Our oncology department is growing by leaps and bounds, and our team should grow to match the influx of patients. Our staff has missed breaks and lunches, had to work overtime, and even worked remotely while sick in order to attempt to give patients the excellent care they deserve.

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.

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

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Rohner, BSN RN OCN**  
**Lymphoma Nurse Navigator**  
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