

Submitter: Sarah Berry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

The current stress and workplace inequities of nursing are horrendous. My friends in nursing are the most compassionate and committed community members I know, and right now they all feel completely abandoned. Those who can retire, are doing so. Current levels of staffing are simply NOT sustainable. Continuing with current demands is simply a recipe for a community in crisis.

Our recognition of the essential role of medical/behavioral caregivers can NOT be erased as if Covid-19 never happened. That crisis affected my family on every level, both physically and mentally. I have two kids with special education needs and both became suicidal during lockdown. I have fantastic benefits but could find NO available therapists/psychiatrists for my kids, and the ones I know were barely hanging on to their own sanity. The unmet behavioral health needs of Oregon teens and adults is ongoing.

Oregonians deserve better, and so do our heroic healthcare providers. Please DO SOMETHING.