

Submitter: Aaron Pearl

On Behalf Of: OFNHP

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I have witnessed for nearly 4 years as hospital staffing at Kaiser has gone from management's own intentional "lean staffing" model that called for cuts of an additional 25% of staff as we headed into 2020! A farcical idea even before anyone ever heard of COVID, but turned into a tragedy and a continually worsening understaffing spiral caused by the burnout of the few staff who are left then leaving, creating more burnout amongst the even fewer people left And so on and so on. Knowing that there are legally enforceable staffing standards will help draw critical health care workers back into the field when they know their input will be taken into account and hospitals held to safe staffing levels.