

Submitter: Troy Winslow

On Behalf Of: Doernbecher Respiratory Therapists

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am a pediatric Respiratory Therapist at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, and I am providing this written testimony in support of HB2697. We have reached a crossroad in the delivery of safe, quality healthcare as we know it. In fact, we reached that crossroad many years ago. The Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, Rehab Therapists, Social Workers and the other mission driven professionals who have continued to show up through a pandemic and an unprecedented pediatric respiratory virus season, are asking that Oregon hospital administrations be held to standards that they should have been held to in the first place. Ensuring that staffing is reflective not only of patient census, but also a meaningful desire to provide a high level of care will only provide better outcomes for sick Oregonians, particularly our most vulnerable patient populations.

This past year, I witnessed incredibly ill children being cohorted in single rooms, and ICU level patients being sent to step down floors to make room for more admissions. Unsafe staffing resulted in high patient to clinician ratios, which ultimately led to diluted care, poor patient outcomes, and extreme burnout. I witnessed the evisceration of what little humanity many clinicians had left. I have seen so many incredible individuals leave healthcare, broken and numb. How much more can we take? I do not know the answer to that, but I know that without HB 2697 and other bills that support Healthcare staff and patients, where we are likely headed should frighten all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time