

Submitter: Tracy Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I am a Registered Nurse in the state of Oregon. Most of my 37 year career has been in NICU/Maternal child in hospital settings. Individuals who chose this profession require a combination of intelligence, empathy, technical skills and grit that is rare. Frankly, this job is not for everyone. For a profession that requires so much, the hours, environmental safety and compensation are terrible. What makes the challenging work possible is team effort and ongoing learning with other nurses, providers and allied health professionals. Just ask a mother about her birth experience, a surgical patient or someone with a family member near the end of life; who made a difference? The answer will likely be the name of a specific nurse. Nurses are the best in our health care system. Without enough staff, we all do our best. We know the high standards that should be met and are destroyed when care is delayed or patients suffer because there are not enough of us to cover their needs. This takes a physical and emotional toll. Days off may be spent worrying that something got missed or wondering if you will be called in because the unit is so short staffed.

Please protect the vital role of nurses in healthcare. Show us that our work is valued by setting and maintaining staffing standards that protect patient care. It is in everyone's best interest to do so.