

Submitter: Ashley Weiler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I am nurse in a rural hospital and support HB 2697. For too long hospital systems have been able to manipulate staffing requirements and have received little to no punishment for deviating from staffing plans. I have seen many nurses come and go over the last few years due to the conditions in which we are working in. Even new graduates coming into the field expresses anxiety and dread about coming in to work and talk about leaving the profession for another field. Managers and CEOs use passive aggressive technics to pressure staffing plans to be passed and are transparent when changes are being made to them. Yet there is no one to stop these behaviors from happening. Staffing by ratios should be implemented statewide. During the pandemic, it wasn't staffing that presented a problem with patients getting appropriate care, it was the lack of hospital beds and life saving equipment such as ventilators. It was the hospitals being unprepared for an unprecedented pandemic that should have had a plan in place all along. In mass casualty events or natural disaster events, then staff will step up and help out. In our small community the nurses and ancillary staff have each others backs, but it's time that Oregon legislators have ours.