

Submitter: Russell Lum
On Behalf Of: Oregon Nurse
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2697

I work full-time, and I started filling out Staffing Request and Documentation Forms (SRDF) in June and made a commitment to fill out one for each day that we were short staff according to our agreed-upon staffing plan.

I have filled one out every shift I've worked since June. That is over 6 months of being short staff. In the last couple of months I have not once received all my allotted breaks. I continue to strive to give safe, effective patient care, but I'm starting to feel the emotional, physical, and mental toll this short-staff environment has caused.

I've worked at the bedside for 18 years and would love to continue to do so until I retire. I love patient care and helping new nurses find their passion in nursing. I want to continue, but I'm not sure how much longer I can hold out. I'm involved in various committees, including the staffing committee and have expressed these sentiments for months now in hopes that St. Charles will help give us what we need to care for our community. Our hiring numbers are stagnant, we can't hold on to travelers, there is no end in sight. Please help us take care of our community the way they deserve to be cared for. -RN at Central Oregon acute care hospital