

Submitter: Wesley Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I wholeheartedly support a safe staffing bill, much like HB 2697, to ensure that our patients receive safe care and our staff are able to work under fair labor conditions. As a Speech Pathologist at an Oregon hospital, I have seen how our nurses and allied health professionals (e.g. PTs, OTs, SLPs, Pharmacists) feel pressured to compromise their ethics and their professional licenses due to unsafe staffing and the resulting working conditions. The lean staffing model our healthcare institutions have promoted for decades may maximize profits, but at the expense of our healthcare providers' ability to do their job well in caring for critically ill patients. Our community deserves better.

It is also important to add "allied" health professionals to the safe-staffing committee language in HR 2697. Though RNs are a backbone of our local hospital systems, other hospital clinicians such as CNAs, Speech Pathologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Dietitians are equally important. Without adequate staffing of these allied health professionals, hospital operations are hobbled and patient care suffers.