

Jonathan Eyestone

RE: Testimony in Opposition of HB 2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care. I am a nurse at Providence St. Vincent Hospital in the Med/Surg Float Pool.

There has been a growing nurse shortage for the greater part of 25 years. This shortage is NOT due to greedy companies refusing to hire, poor retention practice, or lack of state laws - it's from a lack of humans becoming nurses. The solution will not come quick and in the interim we need to adapted staffing to still maintain ability to deliver quality care.

We have staffing laws (SB 469, HB 3016) but if you are going to yet another bill its clear laws are not working. Staff spoke for themselves and even without the state's interference, nurses at Providence have been able to maintain safe staffing ratios using the tools we already use. We all know that Oregon had a staffing shortage long before the pandemic. But flexing from 4:1 on a med surg unit to 5:1 to cover my coworker who is out sick is not directly impacting my quality of provided care. Laws that punishes my employer for doing being adaptable that will limit access to care to those that need it. If laws "fix" anything it will be with more bodies; unfortunately no legislation in the world with invent people that do not exists.

90% of my days at the hospital are great. And for the not so great 10%? Well every day is not going to just run like a dream with no issues, we work with sick people! But, I have all the staff I need to ensure that my patients are cared for safely, every day for every shift. We survived a pandemic just fine without HB 2697. We have staffed multiple overflow units for the "tripledeemic" without HB 2697. We opened new units and expanded current units without HB 2697. This new bill will not, unfortunately, be some sweeping victory for anything, it will just add another layer of bureaucracy and noise to the conversations we are already having to solve our staffing issues.

Please oppose HB 269, if you want to help nurses, make it cheaper to get a nursing degree or make it pay more than McDonalds to be a PT aide or CNA2.