

Submitter: Sui Ping Cheung

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2665

I am writing to oppose HB 2665. I am a registered nurse who has worked the front lines of the Covid pandemic since the beginning. While staffing shortages have long plagued the nursing profession, the world has seen the unprecedented toll nursing shortages have taken on patients and the entire healthcare profession. Let's not forget that it was commonplace during the pandemic in healthcare settings that patients suffered and even died alone due to social distancing and infection prevention isolation precautions. Everyone of us was impacted by the devastation of covid whether directly or knowing someone close in our family and social circles with covid. Even more important to remember: we are not immune to another pandemic which can occur ANYTIME. As a nurse we were on the front lines helping, and working tirelessly to ease the pain and suffering of our patients. Clearly people's memories are short lived and want to go back to a world where the devaluation, dismissal, and lack of recognition of the hard work that healthcare workers do each and everyday. I am writing to admonish everyone that is attempting to sabotage the good work that nurses like myself provide to our communities. At some point in every person's life, they will need a nurse to care of them. Nurse are not only highly trained to be able to provide top notch acute care but also care for their patients in a holistic manner from listening to patients concerns, intuiting their needs, and advocating for their care and comfort every step of the way in both big and small ways. All of which matter in terms of direct patient care. I want you to think about what it is like to imagine being truly sick and not being able to speak, advocate and care for yourself. If you haven't seen or experienced this, I assure you, it's very very scary. Nurses are ones that are at your bedside trying to understand and advocate for you and your loved ones in the safest manner possible when navigating a highly complex healthcare system that may only see patients as medical record numbers instead of actual people with full lives and loved ones to get back to in health. Do not pass HB 2665. This would gravely injure nurses and healthcare workers everywhere. If healthcare workers are hurt, it's a setback to the entire healthcare profession and patient care everywhere. Do the right thing: no rate caps on Oregon Healthcare workers. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sui Ping Cheung