



To: House Committee on General Government, Emergency Management and Veterans

From: Cris Mensez

Date: 2/4/2024

Subject: Support for Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act of 2024

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, Vice Chair Tran, and members of the committee,

The call for support regarding the Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act of 2024 is imperative, and it is crucial to extend this support to all workers, including those in the facilities department at Oregon State Hospital. The contributions of every individual within the operations sphere are indispensable to the seamless functioning of the hospital and, by extension, the provision of quality care to the patients.

In the multifaceted ecosystem of a healthcare facility, the facilities department stands as a cornerstone, ensuring that the physical infrastructure operates at optimal levels to support the critical work undertaken by healthcare professionals. From maintenance personnel guaranteeing the functionality of essential equipment to custodial staff maintaining a hygienic and safe environment, each role within the facilities department is intertwined with the well-being of patients.

By highlighting the diverse roles within the facilities department, it becomes evident that their support is integral to the holistic care provided at Oregon State Hospital. Excluding any segment of the workforce from the proposed legislation

could have far-reaching consequences, undermining the collective effort to sustain and enhance patient care.

The ramifications of neglecting the inclusion of operations in this legislation could manifest in disruptions to hospital services, compromised safety standards, and diminished overall efficiency. It's crucial to recognize that a well-functioning facilities department is not only a support system but a linchpin in the intricate network that ensures the hospital's success.

Therefore, advocating for the extension of support to all workers, including those in operations, is not just about fairness; it's a strategic necessity. The ripple effect of their contributions is felt in every aspect of patient care, and any oversight in acknowledging their importance could hinder the hospital's ability to provide the quality care that Oregonians in crisis deserve.

In urging for the inclusion of operations in the Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act of 2024, the focus is not just on one department but on creating a comprehensive and robust framework that fortifies the entire workforce. This approach ensures that all individuals, regardless of their role, feel valued and supported, fostering a collaborative environment that is essential for addressing the challenges faced by the hospital.

In conclusion, for the success of the proposed legislation and, more importantly, for the sustained well-being of the patients at Oregon State Hospital, it is imperative to extend the scope of support to include all workers, particularly those in the facilities department. This inclusive approach not only acknowledges the diverse contributions of each department but also reinforces the unity necessary for the hospital to thrive in its mission of providing quality psychiatric care during challenging times.

Cris Mensez

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