



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

From: William Shamoon

Date: 02/01/2024

RE: HB 4045 Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act of 2024

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

My name is William Shamoon, I am writing in support of HB 4045 Public Safety Workforce Stabilization to retain and recruit workers at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) and 911 telecommunicators.

I work in Junction City Oregon and work as a custodian at the Oregon State Hospital. We have essential staff that work in security, custodial, mental health and we work together to care for and bring the greatest care to the clients we serve.

Unfortunately, despite the investments the Oregon Legislature has made in mental and behavioral health services, more needs to be done. The underfunding of services and critical staffing needs impacts the safety of the workforce and the quality of care for patients. This leads to workplace injuries and illnesses for state hospital workers, making the state's psychiatric institute the most dangerous place to work.

- I believe HB 4045-1 would improve the recruitment and retention issues.

- The reality is that many of my colleagues do not live long after retirement or carry with them an immense amount of physical and psychological trauma.
- Due to the compromises in the bill, I know that I will not see the full extent of the benefits.

Having the best benefits possible can really make a difference to the state of workers' lives. Having benefits is essential to the well-being of our state of Oregon workers.

OSH workers on the secure campus, like me, deserve improved retirement benefits that recognize the dignity and value of our years of service. These benefits are vital for the wellbeing of OSH workers who must often retire early due to the immense physical, emotional, and mental toll of their jobs. I ask members of the committee to fully support HB 4045. This bill will immensely help the state's psychiatric and nursing workforce in the secure psychiatric facility. We need the Legislature to support the workers at OSH so we can continue to do our jobs: serving patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

William Shamoon