

**TRAVIS NELSON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 44  
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Testimony in Opposition of HB 1173A**

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice-Chair Pham and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Travis Nelson, State Representative for House District 44, North and Northeast Portland. I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB 1173A.

This bill should not pass in its current form. This bill would make it harder for patients harmed by hospitals or clinics to receive justice. By placing additional legal protections around institutions rather than patients, HB 1173 shifts the balance of power away from those who are most vulnerable like those families already navigating trauma, grief, or permanent injury.

When hospitals are shielded from accountability, it sends the message that institutional protection matters more than patient harm. It discourages people from coming forward, even when negligence occurs. It also disincentivizes institutions from improving safety practices because the threat of consequence is dulled.

HB 1173A will also make hospitals and clinics less likely to listen to nurses and patients when safety concerns are raised. Nurses are often the first to witness unsafe staffing levels, broken systems, or signs that a patient is at risk. Patients and their families know when something feels off. But if the institution knows that they have more protections from being held accountable, then it has less reason to take those warnings seriously. That's not speculation, it's human nature. Accountability drives improvement. Silencing it leads to more harm.

We should be making it easier for our frontline workers and patients to be heard, not harder. We need to be sending a clear message that Oregon values patient safety and transparency over institutional convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Travis Nelson'.

State Representative Travis Nelson  
House District 44, North/NE Portland