

Submitter: Oregon Nurse  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916

RE: Support for SB 916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

I strike because as a nurse it is my job to advocate for the patient and their safety. Being instructed to take on 1:4 ratios on a med surg floor that has many patients that are considered heavy care no matter how much care a patient requires is not safe. I've had multiple days where I've had a patient that either required me to be in the room for long periods of time because they were unstable and I should have had the ability to decrease my patient numbers.

I've had assignments with multiple advanced dementia patients with broken hips, arms, thighs that were so confused and scared that they would constantly try to get out of bed throughout the day/night which caused them to be in even more pain. I wasn't able to give the comfort and care they required because i was forced to run from one room to the next hoping I was able to make it into the room quick enough before they further hurt themselves.

I believe a patient is more than their acuity number, they require tailored care to meet them where they are at. I can't do my job and keep them safe when I'm forced to take on the number upper management decided is doable. I refuse to wait until there are enough patients falls for management to see a change needs to be made.

I strike even though I have no safety net for my bills and I'm living off ramen noodles because I know I am advocating for proper changes for patients.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.  
Oregon Nurse