



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

SB 1570 - Protections in Health Care

Senate Committee on Health Care | February 4th 2026 3:00 PM

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Representative Lamar Wise, and I proudly represent House District 48, SE Portland and North Clackamas. I strongly support Senate Bill 1570.

SB 1570 is a focused and responsible measure that directs the Oregon Health Authority to study protections in health care facilities and report its findings to the Legislature by September 15, 2027. This bill does not mandate new requirements today, it ensures we have the data, stakeholder input, and evidence we need to make informed policy decisions tomorrow.

Health care facilities are complex environments where patient safety, worker safety, and operational realities intersect every day. Nurses, direct care staff, and other health care workers consistently report concerns about workplace safety, staffing pressures, and the adequacy of existing protections. At the same time, patients and families depend on these facilities to be safe, responsive, and resilient, especially during times of crisis.

SB 1570 creates the space for Oregon to take a comprehensive look at what protections are currently in place, where gaps exist, and how state policy can better support both the health care workforce and the patients they serve. Importantly, the bill includes a clear timeline and a sunset, ensuring accountability and preventing this study from becoming open-ended.

This legislation was brought forward at the request of the Oregon Nurses Association, whose members have been on the front lines of our health care system through extraordinary challenges. Their lived experience and expertise deserve to be reflected in our policymaking, and this study provides a structured way to do exactly that.

In a time when our health care system continues to face workforce shortages, burnout, and increasing demand, SB 1570 is a prudent step toward evidence-based solutions. It ensures the Legislature will have the information it needs to consider thoughtful, balanced reforms during a future session.

I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 1570 and appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you.