

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4074

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Diehl, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Leanne Bartolini. I am a Medical Surgical Nurse and have worked as a Registered Nurse for 6 years. I currently work at Kaiser Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro, and I am a member of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP AFT-5017). **I am writing in strong opposition to HB 4074.**

Every day, I provide direct patient care, and the nurse staffing law passed in 2023 has a real impact on my ability to do my job safely and effectively. HB 4074 would make significant changes to

the enforcement of that law. If passed, nurses would be struggling to keep up with the needs of the patients we want to help. These patients include our families, friends, neighbors, and anyone close to us. We want them to get the care they deserve and as a nurse and a human being we are only capable of keeping up with so much that is asked of us before mistakes are made, quality care is sacrificed, and nurses begin quitting the profession altogether during a time where they are needed most. HB 2697 was the result of years of research, negotiation, and stakeholder engagement. Rushing through changes to the statute will only put providers and patients at risk. Advancing HB 4074 now would shortcut that process and risk unintended consequences that cannot

be fully evaluated in the limited time available.

From my experience, the current law is working as intended, and barriers to passing plans are rooted in unwillingness to utilize escalation and acuity tools. Hospitals were given ample time to comply, and the vast majority have done so. After seeing how much us nurses have been working on the unit to keep up with demands asked of us from our management to make the "numbers" look good on paper for high certification and then in turn walking into the management office begging for more assistance on the floor since my body is hurting, my mind is hurting, I can't keep up with the bare minimum with the acuity of care on the floor and lack of CNA's to cover all patients, I was told

that they can't help us. Then shortly later a patient has a fall after suddenly being impulsive and no one was able to get to the patient in time because we were all busy dealing with other patient care needs. Patients care is on the line, I want to be able to do what was intended when I became a nurse, not find myself unable to care for them and help them recover and improve their health. If I can't do that, than what is the point of continuing in a profession that harms me more than provides me joy and feeling of accomplishment.

Weakening enforcement through delayed penalties or reduced accountability would effectively suspend the law without the thoughtful analysis such changes demand.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 4074 as currently written.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leanne Bartolini

Registered Nurse