

Submitter: JENNIFER GORDON  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

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 Jennifer Nicholle Gordon. I am a Registered Nurse in ambulatory care, and a U.S. Army Veteran and have worked as a Registered Nurse for 15 years. I currently work at Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Services Medical Office Building in Hillsboro, Oregon, 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.

I spent over a decade working at the bedside IN Liver and Kidney Transplant nursing, as well as Step-Down and Ceitical Care without appropriate staffing ratios. Every day, I provided direct patient care in often unsafe working conditions. I burned out during COVID and left bedside care, like many of my fellow nurses. The nurse staffing law passed in 2023 has a real impact on the ability of bedside nurses to do their jobs safely and effectively. HB 4074 would make significant changes to the enforcement of that law. If passed, bedside nurses will leave direct patient care, leading to further difficulties in staffing nurses at the bedside. This will cause increasing difficulty with safety, and reduce the long term viability of nursing as a profession. This hurts patients and hatms nurses.

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. Hospitals not complying with staffing plans are placing their patients at heightened risk for preventable injuries while hospitalized, have a greater risk for Sentinel events, and have much higher turnover rates in nursing staff than their comparable organizations. 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,

Jennifer Nicholle Gordon, BSN, RN

Clinic and Advice Nurse, Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine

And here for ease