

Submitter: Marie Norton  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

I sincerely hope the authors of this amended house bill never find themselves or their loved ones as patients in a hospital where nurses now have "just one more patient" to care for. "Just one more patient" leads to one more medication to give, one more call light to answer, one more chart to fill out, one more phone call, one more meeting with specialists, one more therapy appointment to organize, one more Xray to get, one more barrier to taking a break/avoiding a patient fall/getting a patient discharged in time to open up a room for someone waiting in the Emergency room for 46 hours. The cascade effect is real and moreover the negative effects of increased ratios is well documented (poor patient outcomes, increased sentinel events, retention, staff knowledge loss). Bottom line: these hospitals do not have plans to increase accommodation or support mechanisms (more nurse aides, AI that answers phones or speeds up charting by 150%) while simultaneously increasing the workload of nurses. To use a football analogy: you can't lengthen the field to 120 yards and not give the quarterback more offensive line power. (Or a cannon instead of an arm maybe.) We are not magicians, and we aren't Tom Brady. We are just humans caring for other humans. Don't let Oregonians suffer as patients in the name of hospital financial mismanagement. Don't let them feel like Patriot fans in 2026. Vote no.