

Submitter: Erika Broussard  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Diehl, and Members of the Committee:  
For the record, my name is Erika Broussard. I am a registered nurse a for nearly 18 years. I currently work at Kaiser Permanente Sunnyside in Clackamas in Labor and Delivery, prior to that in ICU, 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, patients coming in to labor and delivery would continue to experience what they have been lately. My employer is refusing to staff enough positions to adequately and safely take care of those we have, according to national staffing guidelines for the pregnant patient. We are putting our patients at grave risk, trying to care for more than is safe, and I fear a sentinel event related to that. We routinely have to hold patients without starting inductions because we cannot safely manage them with the staff we have.

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. Kaiser continues to refuse to staff safely as agreed upon in our staffing plan. They often staff for break nurses with the intent of pulling them for patient care, rather than offering incentives to bring staff in to safely care for patients. 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,  
Erika Broussard, RN CCRN