

Submitter: Paige Wilkowski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

Paige McBride
February 11, 2026

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB 4074

To the House Health Care Committee:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 4074. As a bedside registered nurse in Oregon, I have personally witnessed the impact that staffing levels have on patient safety, nurse burnout, and the overall quality of care in our hospitals.

HB 2697 was a hard-fought, consensus-based step forward to protect patients and healthcare workers. It acknowledged what those of us at the bedside have long known: safe staffing saves lives. It reduces preventable harm, improves outcomes, and makes nursing sustainable. HB 4074 would undo that progress and return us to a system where staffing decisions were too often driven by financial priorities rather than patient safety.

Allowing hospitals to self-attest compliance removes meaningful accountability. Narrowing reporting requirements for staffing deviations decreases transparency. Capping fines, eliminating penalties for failing to adopt staffing plans, removing agency authority to suspend or revoke licenses, and delaying enforcement until 2030 sends a clear message that staffing standards are optional. They are not.

When staffing is inadequate, patients wait longer for critical interventions. Subtle changes in condition can be missed. Nurses are forced to ration care — deciding which task is most urgent rather than providing comprehensive care. This creates moral injury and drives experienced nurses away from the bedside, worsening the staffing crisis.

Every Oregonian deserves hospital care in an environment that supports healing. Every nurse deserves working conditions that allow them to practice safely and ethically. Reversing the protections established under HB 2697 betrays those values and puts patients at risk.

HB 4074 is not a technical adjustment. It is a dangerous step backward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment, and I urge you to join me in

opposing this bill.

Sincerely,
Paige Wilkowski