

Submitter: Forrest Lloyd
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

Chair Rep. Rob Nosse, Vice-chair Rep. Ed Diehl, Vice-chair Rep. Travis Nelson, and all esteemed members of the Oregon House Committee on Health Care:

I am writing testimony to strongly urge you to OPPOSE HB 4074.

As a bedside nurse, I witness on every shift how safe staffing ratios ensure a safe workplace environment for healthcare workers in addition to ensuring patients are able to receive the level of care they need and deserve. Safe staffing not only ensures patient and nurse safety, but also yields higher patient satisfaction, reduces permanent staff turnover, and helps ameliorate the burnout that many healthcare workers experience in the US healthcare system.

Having worked in a state without mandated safe staffing, I can attest to the negative impact that results from nurses being stretched beyond their limits. When nurses are unable to give their patients the time and attention they require due to being assigned too heavy a case load, no amount of time management can make up for the gaps and weak links that are formed. Safe staffing ensures nurses are able to assess their patients, monitor patient status, administer medications, and respond to rapidly changing circumstances in a safe and efficient manner.

This bill seeks to improve short-term profits for healthcare executives, but is ultimately shortsighted in scope. The savings that line exec's pockets with this bill will soon be eclipsed by the inevitable high rates of patient recidivism, poor prognostic outcomes, extended hospital stays, and increase in staff turnover created by this bill.

HB 4074 attempts to normalize the abnormal - it seeks to gaslight nurses into believing that working beyond our capacity is something to be praised, not avoided. This bill removes any responsibility of hospitals and healthcare systems when it comes to shortcomings, and instead shifts all blame to the bedside nurses who are supporting the systems in question. Safe staffing is an ultimate driver of workplace satisfaction for nurses, and passage of this bill WILL result in an exodus of bedside nurses. Our elected leaders came to support us in 2023, please do not abandon us solely for the money that corporate healthcare alleges will appear. Safe staffing DOES make a difference. Safe staffing saves lives.

I strongly urge this committee to advocate for policies that further the gains made by HB 2697. I urge you to push for policies that seek to bolster nurse and patient safety. This bill will hurt anyone in the state who seeks healthcare unless they are members

of the top 1%. The everyday Oregonian needs safe staffing laws - no one knows when they may end up in the hospital - and I would imagine if you were to end up hospitalized, you would want a nurse with a manageable case load taking care of you. HB 4074 seeks to overwork the overworked, punish the laborer, and line the pockets of executives who are far-removed from the daily responsibilities of bedside nurses.

Thank you for your hard work, time, and consideration.

Respectfully,
Forrest Lloyd, MSN, RN