

Submitter: Brianna Darling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

As an RN employed by ARPMC in Medford, OR, I oppose HB 4074, presented 2/10/26. I believe all staffing plans should be developed and created by bedside staff in coordination with management, then voted on in the hospital-wide staffing committee as statutory ratios in the law do not take into account patient acuity or accrediting bodies. As a nurse on a family newborn unit that cares for high acuity postpartum, antepartum, and babies, 1:6 ratios regardless of acuity would be unsafe, unrealistic, and result in poor outcomes for a vulnerable population. Our unit and others have not officially passed our staffing plan due to technical/admin error (uneven bedside and management voting members recorded and lack of a bedside co-chair), and I fear mass submission of staffing plans by the hospital will undermine the work done by individual units to create plans that work for them and their patients. It is easy to see a census as numbers and ratios, but please strive to view them instead as individual patients with different needs requiring different levels of nursing care. Failure to do so could one day impact you, your partner, your parents, or your children.

As a plea from a bedside nurse worried about her patients and an unsafe work environment, please do not pass HB4074.