

Submitter: laura mcadams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4074

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Diehl, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Laura McAdams. I am a Registered Nurse and have worked as a registered nurse for 18yrs years. I currently work at kaiser sunnyside hospital in Clackamas county, 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, pts lives would be at stake. We are already overworked and understaffed. This would prevent patients from getting the proper care that they need and deserve.

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. I came from California where ratios ensured good staffing and patient care. These corporate companies are just trying to get out of hiring more help and spending any money on the members who deserve it. I have worked many nights with unsafe patient ratios and sometimes when more than one patient goes downhill you can only be in one room at a time. Safe patient ratios save lives!

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,

Laura McAdams RN