

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 Carmen M Garz, Rn

N, I am a registered nurse, and have worked as a registered nurse for 10 years. I currently work at Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center in Clackamas , Oregon, 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, the quality of the direct patient care will drastically decrease due to hospitals being already understaffed with CNA's and other support staff, and this will put our patients in danger of negative outcomes, increased wait times for care and risks for falls and complications.

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. My hospital has showed a blatant concern for safe staffing ratios, while making every attempt to accept patients even without the proper support staff or break nurses. That leads to nurses being constantly overworked and patients suffering, while management makes unreasonable demands and forces staff into unsafe work situations which leads to injuries and burnout.

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,

Carmen M Garz

Registered nurse