

Submitter: Dylan Rathsmann
On Behalf Of: Nursing Profession
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

My name is Dylan, and I am a registered nurse working in a neurological unit in Oregon. I respectfully oppose HB 4074 because I am deeply concerned about how it will impact bedside nurses and, most importantly, patient safety.

As a neuro nurse, I care for patients who are often medically fragile and require frequent neurological assessments, strict medication timing, and close monitoring for subtle but life-threatening changes. Even at my current patient load, I am already overworked. Adding additional responsibilities or increasing workload expectations under HB 4074 will directly compromise patient care.

In my current practice, I already struggle to consistently:

-Complete vital signs (VS) on time when multiple patients require urgent attention at once.

-Administer medications exactly at their scheduled due times, particularly time-sensitive medications such as anticoagulants, antiepileptics, and blood pressure medications critical to stroke and brain injury patients.

-Adequately balance family communication, education, and discharge planning while managing high-acuity clinical demands.

-Take uninterrupted meal or rest breaks during a 12-hour shift.

-Leave work on time; I frequently stay late to finish charting and complete required documentation.

-Chart as accurately and thoroughly as patients deserve because I am racing against time at the end of my shift.

Neurological patients can deteriorate rapidly. Missing subtle changes in mental status, delaying medications, or rushing documentation can have devastating consequences. Safe neuro nursing requires time — time to assess, to think critically, to document accurately, and to communicate with families. When nurses are stretched beyond safe limits, the risk of errors increases.

I am already operating at maximum capacity under current staffing conditions. Any legislation that further increases workload, documentation requirements, or patient

assignment pressures without addressing safe staffing realities will worsen burnout, increase turnover, and ultimately harm patients.

I urge you to consider the real-world impact this bill will have on frontline nurses and the vulnerable patients we serve. For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 4074.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dylan Rathsman , RN
Portland, Oregon