

Submitter: Tracy Swanson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

February 12, 2026

House Committee

Oregon State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB 4074

My name is Tracy Swanson, and I am a Registered Nurse practicing in an acute care hospital in Oregon. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 4074.

I have worked at the bedside caring for Oregonians for 26 years, during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives — from medical emergencies to end-of-life care. In that role, I have seen firsthand how policy decisions made in Salem directly affect patient safety, nurse workload, and hospital operations.

While I understand that HB 4074 may be well-intentioned, I have serious concerns about how it will impact frontline patient care in hospital settings.

First and foremost, patient safety must remain the top priority. Hospital units are dynamic, fast-paced environments where patient conditions can change in seconds. Nurses must be able to use their clinical judgment to prioritize care and respond immediately to emergencies. Policies that impose rigid requirements or additional procedural mandates without adequate staffing or operational flexibility can unintentionally compromise the very safety they seek to protect.

Oregon hospitals are already experiencing significant workforce strain. Nurses are caring for increasingly complex patients while navigating staffing shortages, high turnover, and burnout that has intensified in recent years. Adding additional regulatory burdens without corresponding investments in workforce recruitment, retention, and support risks worsening these challenges.

From my experience, what truly strengthens patient care is:

Safe and enforceable staffing standards

Investment in recruitment and retention of nurses

Support for rural and critical access hospitals

Inclusion of frontline nurses in policymaking decisions

Legislation that affects bedside care should be shaped by the lived experiences of

those who deliver that care every day. I respectfully urge the committee to pause and reconsider HB 4074 in its current form and to engage more deeply with hospital nurses and healthcare professionals before moving forward.

Oregon patients deserve policies that strengthen care delivery, not ones that may unintentionally create new barriers in an already strained system.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your commitment to improving healthcare in our state.

Respectfully,

Tracy Swanson, RN, BSN

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