

Submitter: Sam Guido  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

I am a Registered Nurse working on a Medical/Surgical unit at a hospital in Portland and I oppose this measure rolling back safe staffing protections for nurses in Oregon. I moved here from the Midwest and the safe staffing laws in Oregon were a major factor in my decision. When I moved here I was astonished how much safer the hospitals feel for staff and especially for patients. Working in the Midwest I was used to having at least 6 patients, occasionally up to 7. Sometimes I had as many as 8-11 patients as part of "team-based" nursing where an RN is paired with an LPN or paramedic. It is impossible to provide patient-centered quality care to that many patients. Patients did not feel like they have a voice in their care because nurses often did not have the time to listen to them. Pain medications, wound care, basic hygiene, and other essential care could all be delayed. Working in Portland I am able to slow down and focus on what my patients really need. Patients and staff are all much kinder to each other and there is mutual trust. Safe staffing makes a real difference for everyone. I could never go back to working on a unit with those absurd and unsafe ratios. Safe staffing in Oregon needs to be protected and rolling back these protections to benefit a few large healthcare companies at the expense of staff and patients would decrease quality of care across the entire state. I encourage anyone who values our hospitals, healthcare workers, and patients to oppose this bill. Thank you.