

Submitter: Amy Hawkins  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

Hello,

My name is Amy Hawkins, and I am a nursing student at OHSU writing to strongly oppose HB 4074. I have completed clinical rotations on medical-surgical floors over the past year and hope to work on a medical-surgical floor when I graduate. I have personally seen how a 1:5 ratio creates unsafe situations and substandard care—by no fault of the nurse on duty. It is simply not acceptable to return to these ratios for the sake of our patients as well as for the health of our nurses. Nurses are burning out rapidly, and staffing ratios directly affect our burnout.

I want you to imagine the person you love most in the world ending up in the hospital. They are very sick, and they, like many others, end up on a medical-surgical unit. Do you want their nurse to be tired, distracted, and unable to spend much time in their room? I hope that you will consider the very real consequences of this bill and oppose it for the sake of our nurses and every single Oregon resident. We never know when we may get sick, but I hope when we do, we get the care we deserve. And for us nurses, I hope we are given the basic dignity of a safe working environment.

Sincerely,  
Amy Hawkins