

Submitter: Vera Bordyug
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

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 Vera Bordyug. I am a Registered Nurse and have worked as a registered nurse for eight years. I currently work at Kaiser Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro, 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, this will be catastrophic for our patients. It's already difficult to care for 4 patients on med surg, adding 5th patient would lead to delayed care and even many errors. Many patients will not receive timely lifesaving medications, antibiotics, pain medications and/or labs drawn in time.

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. When nurses have unsafe staffing, safe patient care is delayed. This will lead to readmissions, mental health breakdown for nurses and nursing shortages. Many nurses are already burned out, and this will be the ending straw for many nurses. Please do not change the staffing laws. We have fought so long and hard to finally have safer rations for our patients. This will be very catastrophic

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,

Vera Bordyug, RN, BSN