

Submitter: Sara Lamkin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

For the record, my name is Sara Lamkin. I am an RN and have worked as a nurse for 8 years. I currently work at Kaiser in Hillsboro, 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, it would mean not only delays in cares to patients but also could result in unsafe conditions for patients. Proper staffing ratios allows you to provide better care for patients. It allows you more time at the bedside educating them, explaining things to them and also time to help care for their personal needs such as hygiene as well. These staffing laws also help prevent burnout of bedside nurses as it ensures a manageable workload along with breaks.

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.

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.