



Caring for Oregon

Opposition to HB 4074

House Committee on Health Care

2026 Legislative Session

Good afternoon Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Committee members. My name is Tamie Cline, I recently retired after more than two decades as a bedside nurse in a rural hospital, and I am the Oregon Nurses Association President. ONA is a professional association and union representing over 24,000 clinicians throughout the state. I am speaking in strong opposition to House Bill 4074.

HB 4074 quietly guts transparency by allowing hospitals to notify only staffing committee cochairs when they violate staffing plans. This is not a technical tweak — it is a calculated move to suppress nurse participation and shield management from accountability.

Shared governance does not function when information is withheld. Isolating one or two nurses increases the risk of retaliation and silences the rest of the committee. That is not oversight; it is intimidation by design.

Frontline nurses are held accountable for every error, every missed intervention, every bad outcome. Yet this bill allows hospitals to hide violations from the very professionals expected to absorb the risk.

If the goal were safety, transparency would be expanded — not restricted. HB 4074 does the opposite, and it should be rejected.

Like I said, I had the luxury of retiring recently, but several of my nurse colleagues here today have deep expertise in the hospital safe staffing law including cochairs of their hospital staffing committee. They know what's happening in patient rooms and I encourage you to ask them yourselves about hospitals' continued attempts to discourage robust staffing plans that will protect patients and retain a healthcare workforce facing unprecedented challenging working conditions.