

NO TO HB 4074

February 11 2026

Good afternoon Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Committee members. My name is Richard Botterill and I am speaking in strong opposition to House Bill 4074.

This bill forces the Oregon Health Authority to dismiss staffing complaints within 30 days — even if hospitals delay producing records. That is not efficiency. It is a blueprint for evasion.

Staffing investigations require schedules, acuity data, staffing plans, and nurse testimony. Hospitals control most of that information. This bill rewards delay and obstruction by letting hospitals run out the clock.

OHA is already meeting timelines. What this bill does is prioritize dismissal over truth. And underscore what we nurses see too often when we are in the trenches caring for patients: For us, it's patients over everything. For hospitals, it's profits over patients.

This. Costs. Real. Lives.

If enforcement is impossible, the law is meaningless. HB 4074 intentionally weakens enforcement, and that should alarm every member of this committee.

Hospitals have been striving to find any way they can to violate the law. HB4047 will result in more nurse burn out which will result in more nurses leaving the profession, which will result in degradation of patient care and that will result in further reduction of community care.

It is clear that those originating this proposed bill do not care for their nurses, do not care for our patients, and do not care for the communities they serve.

Passage of this bill would demonstrate a lack of humanity, a lack of ethics, and a general violation of the Florence Nightingale Pledge to protect patient safety and uphold the welfare of those in our care and ensuring our actions are always beneficial and not detrimental!

It flies in the face of the Hippocratic Tradition - Primum non nocere - first do no harm - the underpinning of all medical ethics guiding professionals to act in the patients best interest.

HB4047 will set our healthcare system back years and cause harm to the communities we serve. We must maintain patient and community well being and health over profits - to do otherwise is disrespectful and insulting to the people of our amazing State of Oregon!