

To: House Committee on Health Care

From: Kaleigh Rohel, Oregon Nurses Association Member

Date: 2-10-2026

Re: Please don't pass HB 4074

Good afternoon Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Committee members. My name is Kaleigh Roehl, I'm a registered nurse, the co-chair of the hospital staffing committee at Providence Portland, and I am speaking in strong opposition to House Bill 4074.

Before moving to Oregon 4 years ago, I worked as a nurse in the state of Florida for 9 years and it is unfortunately a state that does not have any meaningful staffing legislation. I spent many nights crying on my drive home, crushed by the moral injury of being unable to provide the care my patients deserved. I moved to Oregon to live in a state that had more protections for patients and the workers who care for them.

The 2023 passage of House Bill 2697 demonstrated Oregon's commitment to ethical patient care and the critical role nurse-to-patient ratios play in keeping Oregonians safe. It is unfortunate that these laws have to be in place at all however, healthcare executives who are more concerned with their financial bottom lines have proven they cannot be trusted to provide the staff we need without the threat of consequence.

Any suggestions from millionaire hospital executives that this law is somehow too cumbersome to follow are surely just crocodile tears and this bill is nothing more than another shameful attempt by the corporate hospital lobby to weaken our state's landmark staffing law.

One component of the bill I feel compelled to speak to is that it claims to redirect penalties to uncompensated care while simultaneously delaying all penalties until 2030.

You cannot fund patient care with penalties that would not actually exist. This bill pretends to help patients while actually protecting hospitals from any accountability.

I want Oregon to continue to be a state where my colleagues and I can feel proud of the care we provide and treat patients with the dignity and respect we would want for our own family, and yours. Please reject this bill, thank you.