

Submitter: Alli Sayre  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074  
Chair Nosse, members of the committee;

My name is Alli Sayre and I'm a resident of North Portland. I'm also a former EMS worker who served the Clackamas County 911 system. I'm writing in strong opposition to HB 4074, which would undo the key components of Oregon's Hospital Staffing law.

Despite the words of multiple astroturfing healthcare executives (such as Asante CISO Alfonso Powers who wrote you as a "concerned citizen"), healthcare corporations in Oregon are not in trouble. Asante is choosing to close Ashland Community Hospital because they want to make more money, despite the hospital being in the black. Healthcare in this country is experiencing increasing consolidation and investment by private equity. That is what is causing hospitals to close. Rich people want to get richer. Oregon has led in this fight with our mergers & acquisitions bill, which just contributed to a wave of successful union organizing by Legacy employees. Union hospitals are safer places to get care, so this regulation has now made Oregon hospitals safer.

Oregon's healthcare is far from perfect but the solution is not to make it easier to understaff. I was discharged from the hospital yesterday after spending two nights admitted for an urgent surgery. Because of the nature of my surgery I was on a unit with 1:3 nurse to patient ratios. Despite having better staffing than Med/Surg, I still had to wait to get help going to the restroom for up to 30 minutes. Almost all patients admitted to the hospital need some kind of help going to the bathroom - it's a basic safety precaution that prevents falls. With 1:5 ratios in Med/Surg, a nurse only has 12 minutes per hour to provide care to each patient. That's an unacceptably low amount of time that inevitably results in things being missed. Patients broadly are higher acuity (sicker) and need more hands-on care. Every patient deserves a nurse AND a CNA.

Despite the data supporting lower ratios, Oregon hospitals are now coming to you demanding you repeal part of the law. Despite not paying any of their fines, they are now claiming the fines are hurting them and asking you to delay them for years. As a former EMS worker, I've seen first hand what happens when patients have delayed or denied care. They die. Often alone at home, because they are worried about the costs of getting care. Deregulating hospital staffing is not going to change those outcomes - the money saved is going straight into executives' pockets. The same executives who submitted testimony here claiming to be concerned citizens. Don't

waste what little time you have in the short session making wealthy executives richer (that includes funding sports stadiums by the way). Tax the rich and hold the line on hospital staffing. Please vote no on advancing HB 4074 out of committee. Thank you for your time.

Alli Sayre  
North Portland