

Submitter: Sarah Giordano
On Behalf Of: OFNHP
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4074

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Diehl, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Sarah Giordano. I am a charge nurse and have worked as a registered nurse for 14 years. I currently work at Kaiser Westside 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, this would place even more on the shoulders of nurses who are already stretched to the max. On my unit we have 24 patient beds. With the new law for CNAs that means that when we are full, 10 of those patients go without a CNA. The result is that nurses are providing full care for these patients. If HB 4074 is passed that will mean that our ratios will increase and the demands placed on the nurses, whose plates are already spilling over, will increase as well. This will impact patient safety tremendously.

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. I am very aware of how hard our staffing committee has worked to come up with a safe staffing plan and the road blocks Kaiser has put in front of them preventing that from happening.

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. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Giordano, RN, BSN