

Testimony in opposition of HB 2945

Dear Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and Committee members,

My name is Roxanne Barra and I am a doctoral-prepared registered nurse working in Oregon. I am writing to share my concerns with proposed House Bill 2945.

To date, there is no evidence in the literature to suggest that nursing assistants are associated with improved patient outcomes. On the contrary, the one study on this topic found that the addition of nursing assistants on units led to increases in negative outcomes for patients (Twigg et al., 2016). Therefore, I cannot support additional nursing assistants on hospital staffing effectiveness committees.

Regarding the implementation of the proposed legislation, I work in a community hospital and I am concerned that having three nursing assistants on the committee would not accurately represent the staffing mix in our hospital. Moreover, I do not feel that nursing assistants are adequately prepared to speak to the complexities of staffing a hospital unit. For the work of the Staffing Effectiveness Committee to be successful, equal management representation is integral to providing insight into the feasibility of proposed staffing changes. In addition to representation by each unit (management and direct care representatives), the Chief Nursing Officer has ultimate accountability over the staffing of the hospital and therefore *must* be involved in decisions that are made regarding the staffing of the hospital.

I also am concerned that allocating additional resources to the Oregon Health Authority to enforce the staffing requirements would take away from other important work of improving the health of our communities. I further disagree with the enactment of a state of emergency on the basis that this bill is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety.

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony in response to the proposed House Bill 2945.

Respectfully,

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References

Twigg, D., Myers, H., Duffield, C., Pugh, J., Gleder, L., & Roche, M. (2016). The impact of adding assistants in nursing to acute care hospital ward staffing on adverse patient outcomes: An analysis of administrative health data. *The International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 63, 189-200. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2016.19.008>