



Chair Salinas and members of the committee my name is Anna Blackman. I am an Executive Board Member of SEIU local 49 and I have been a Certified Nursing Asst at Sacred Heart for 13 years. I am one of two CNA's that share one seat on our nurse staffing committee. I'm here asking for you to support HB 2945 because I am committed to safe staffing of healthcare workers in Oregon hospitals.

When I chose to become a CNA I made a promise to myself that I would take care of patients the way I would expect others to take care of my family when they are in need. Which means I would only give the best care possible. To give you a taste of how much the word possible has changed in my 13 years of experience I will ask you to put yourselves in my shoes for a moment. 13 years ago my daily assignment given to me was 5-6 patients to give excellent loving care to. This included but not limited to checking vital signs, blood sugars, bathing, feeding, helping turn, ambulate those who couldn't on their own. Having time in between these tasks to give a hug and just sit and listen when needed. Now 13 years later I am expected to do this for 9 on a staffed day up to 20 on an understaffed day. Instead of giving the best possible care like I promised myself I would my work has turned into the most heartbreaking impossibility to give excellent loving care that I and my colleagues strive to give. Many days we cry together, we are asked to do more with less. I have been told by management that I spend too much time talking with my patients that I need to move on faster.

We keep hearing the words it's healthcare burnout that we all are experiencing and I believed it until recently I heard the words, moral injury. Our morals that we promised to uphold are being crushed by the system is what is happening. It is very difficult to help make changes when you are the one CNA on nurse staffing committee in a room full of Directors, Nurse managers, and RN's. We often are unable to address how much the effect of lack of CNA help directly takes away basic care from our patients. Now with that being said I urge you to support HB 2945 to help healthcare workers like myself give the best possible care to our communities in Oregon. I truly believe having another CNA by my side at Nurse Staffing committee it will help our voices be heard and help make the necessary changes. Thank you for your time today.

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