

To: Oregon House Committee on Health Care
RE: HB 3011

I am writing in support of HB 3011 in a call for safe hospital nurse staffing. Our nurses have stood between us and the pandemic for a year, keeping us safe and caring for us when exposure occurred. They need your support to make sure that reasonable protections are in place to keep them on the job.

As nurse that has worked in situations of understaffing on a hospital unit, I know that unsafe nurse staffing means that the patients nurses care for are at risk. This was enough to cause me to leave the job on that unit and the anxiety of the time remains traumatic to me these many years later.

Oregon's Nurse Staffing Law serves as a national model, providing high quality patient care, resulting from the ongoing collaboration between nursing professionals and the facilities in which they work. Unfortunately, insufficient funding to support OHA's implementation has prevented effective oversight, inconsistent with current law. This bill, which received broad Senate and House support during our 2020 legislative session, would provide the necessary funding to bring the department into compliance to ensure staffing plan deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.