



## Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 9, 2022

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Katie Shriver with the SEIU Oregon State Council. SEIU represents 85,000 working Oregonians, and our mission is to achieve a higher standard of living for our members. We represent thousands of healthcare workers working in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other long term care settings. We testify today in support of HB 4096 with an amendment clarifying that hospitals and health systems cannot use volunteers to replace workers during labor disputes.

The COVID pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for our healthcare workers, many of whom have shown up to work to serve their communities and to continue to earn a paycheck throughout the last two years despite deep fears and frustrations. Chronic staffing shortages in healthcare were common prior to COVID, but the pandemic has dramatically exacerbated these shortages and the challenges workers face providing quality patient care. Given this context, we share the sponsors' interest in expanding the ability of medical professionals from other states who are in good standing to volunteer in Oregon. In an emergency situation localized to Oregon or a region within Oregon, volunteer medical professionals from outside of our state could provide a lifeline for Oregonians in need of medical care.

As noted, we do not support the use of volunteers to replace workers during a labor dispute. We believe that this is a misuse of volunteers by hospitals and health systems, and we do not support efforts to promote this practice. We appreciate that the sponsors were willing to clarify this within HB 4096.

Please support HB 4096 with an amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.