

David Golomski
1875 NE Cliff Dr
Bend, OR 97701

RE: HB 2697 (Nurse Staffing)

February 15, 2023

Dear Reps Nosse, Goodwin, Nelson, Bowman, Conrad, Dexter, Diehl, Javadi, Morgan, Pham, and Tran,

My name is David Golomski and I am a nurse at St. Charles Medical Center, Bend. Recently, I was working in the ER boarding patients. All of the nurses had 4 patients, there was no tech or CNA available to work with us. After receiving reports on patients and doing chart reviews, I noted that a patient with high level spinal cord injury had not urinated since admission 18 hours prior. The patient stated he had gone to the bathroom shortly before his accident that resulted in the injury, but "its ok, I don't feel like I need to pee". With limited staffing, a patient's lack of urination after a spinal injury was missed by previous staff. On the same shift, a patient had a fall while ambulating to the bathroom because there was no staff available for this patient to help get them to the bathroom.

We know that safe staffing levels are directly related to better outcomes for patients. All the research indicates this; there is no question this is true.

Yet, hospitals consistently understaff, fail to do the work necessary to retain experienced nurses, and continually create work environments that lead to burnout, exhaustion and moral injury.

The truth is simple: if hospitals continue to refuse to do what is right, the legislature must act.

Patients deserve better, and so do the nurses who provide care.

Please support HB 2697.

David Golomski