

John Nangle CEN, RN Oregon Legislature Written Testimony

- I have worked for St Charles in Bend for almost 22 years, and I have spent hundreds of hours in meetings with St Charles managers and leaders over that. Many of those hours have been spent on the Bend Staffing Committee, which is the legislated committee from the existing Oregon Nurse Staffing Law.
 - I consider myself one of the experts on the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law, having spent time working with the law since HB 2800 was first passed in 2001.
 - I am one of many nurses who lift the ink off the page and try and make this law work to help assure safe, quality patient care.
 - I know what is working and what is not working.
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- In Bend we are in a Code Red situation. But our Code Red really began in 2015 when we began to see:
 - Nurses leaving the bedside
 - fewer nurses moving to Bend coming
 - Increase in reliance on high cost Travelers nurses
 - Increase in nurses' patient assignments – taking too big a workload
 - Increase in violations to the staffing plans and the Oregon Nurse Staffing Law
 - Increase in the Hospital not providing legally mandated breaks
 - Increase in moral injury to nurses as they endured harsher working conditions
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- Now we have a very unstable nursing workforce in Bend and patient care is suffering. HB 2697 won't fix all of the issues facing the nursing profession and health care, but it will help address some extremely dire issue:
 - Dr Linda Aiken, PhD, RN – Studied the California ratios and found
 - The nursing workforce stabilizes when we set the minimum number of nurses that must be on the unit – greatly improving working conditions
 - Patients receive on average 2-3 more hours of nursing care.
 - Lower mortality and better patient outcomes
 - Associated with nurse retention, thus reducing turnover – one nurse costs an organization ~\$46,000 to replace them when they resign.
 - HB 2697 will help:
 - In Bend we have ~300 open nursing positions, this bill will help retaining and recruiting nurses, which will stabilize the nursing workforce
 - Improve working conditions by assuring nurses do not get overloaded patient assignments
 - In Bend the Hospital did not provide ~32,000 breaks in 2022, this bill would provide a real incentive for Hospitals to meet their obligation and provided legally mandated rest breaks.
 - HB 2697 will be a strong step in helping the nursing profession in Bend provide the safe, quality patient care our community deserves and frankly demands. Please get this done as soon as possible. Thank you!