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RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

My name is Barbara Davis. I have been a nurse for 34 years, the last 15 of those at Peace Harbor Hospital in the ICU.

Since 2020 management at Peace Health has shared many messages praising nurses as “heroes,” while simultaneously ignoring our pleas for better staffing. As you well know from media reports, the last few years have been extremely difficult for all caregivers, nurses in particular. We don’t want more praise. We don’t need or want more pizzas, benevolently purchased by management to compensate for the short-staffing.

We need more staff.

There is direct correlation between staffing ratios and medical errors. Would you want you or your loved ones to be that one-too-many patient lying in a bed, in pain, waiting too long for a response to your call light because your nurse was being stretched thin? Nurses are humans. It is easy to miss things when there’s too much on our plate - and there are *many* near-misses. Critically ill patients’ lives are dependent on their nurse’s full attention. Peace Health should be putting patients before profits. Oregon’s nurses deserve. Our patients deserve better. Our communities deserve better.

Please support HB 2697 and give nurses what they really need: help.