

Submitter: Pete Lee, EMT

On Behalf Of: [self]

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB 2697

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson, honorable committee members, and staff:

For the record, my name is Pete Lee. I am a lifelong Oregonian with an extensive background in technology and corporate strategy. For over 20 years, I have also served as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician in Oregon: part of my background includes work in emergency medical and primary care clinic settings.

I cannot emphasize enough how crucial nurses are to high quality, safe and empathetic care for patients. Nursing education is uniquely human-centered. Furthermore, nursing praxis plays a crucial role in patient protection and advocacy, especially to help other clinicians avoid (sometimes fatal) mistakes.

Over the last two years, I have heard countless, heartbreaking stories from nurses about being overworked, exhausted and being exposed to incredibly hazardous situations: this is dangerous for both patients and nurses.

Without sensible staffing provisions, nurses cannot play a crucial role in orchestrating effective and sensible patient care.

I urge all committee members to pass HB 2697.

I hope that you, your families, and the communities you serve remain safe, strong, and resilient.

Thank you for considering my testimony and the gift of your time.

Sincerely,

-Pete Lee