

## Support for Safe Hospital Staffing

February 26, 2023

To: Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

From Members of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Portland, OR

Re: Support for House Bill 2697

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care:

We strongly encourage your support of HB 2697 to be responsive to health care workforce crisis, support overloaded health care workers, and improve patient safety and care in our community.

Our members are patients too. We know the stories of nurses who are strained and demoralized by inability to respond to patient needs in a timely manner due to short staffing. And study after study shows that understaffing is associated with longer lengths of stay, higher mortality, higher infection, and readmission. Not one of us wishes to be the patient whose care is put at risk by the overtaxing of a hospital staff member, yet the far-reaching nature of the staffing crisis means it could be any of us.

HB 2697 is an appropriately robust response to a scary situation in acute care in Oregon. Specifically, the bill will:

- For hospital nursing staff, establish numerical standards of how many patients a nurse may be charged with caring for — the standard serving as a floor
- Resolve nurses' impossible decision between providing patient care and taking quick breaks for eating and resting during their 12-hour shifts
- Bolster the role of the Oregon Health Authority in ensuring the staffing standards are met
- Enshrine a voice for workers who do home health care or who are technical, service, or professional staff in a hospital to collaboratively set staffing standards, additional to the requirements of the bill for hospital nursing care

Establishing nurse-to-patient standards as well as a voice to determine staffing for categories of staff beyond hospital nursing is the solution to our lack of health workers that the workers themselves demand. So that these jobs are sustainable and so that more workers are retained rather than flee the care setting, health care system workers and professionals have put forth for the legislature's consideration these measures in HB 2697. Please join community members, advocates, and workers in support.

Support for Safe Hospital Staffing (continued)

Thank you for your attention to this important issue in our state.

Signed:

Robert Byrne	May Newman
Ronald Wheeler	Jaqueline Rossini
Angelica Brown	Ernie J. Brown
Paul J. Kelly	<del>Mark W. Henry</del>
Michelle E. Byrne	Paul W. Henry
Denis Maloney	Jane Solis King
Michelle	Mark Kuchner
Carol Kinchel	Lisa M. Hallen
Thomas Hogan	Jerome E. LaRosa
Kayreen Beerna	Valeri E. Chign
Carol Butz	
William Paul	
John Kelly	
A. C. Kierney	
James Brun	
Susan Hedges	

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Signed:

Robert Byrne  
Judith A Dean - St Andrews

Stephen Hanchuck

Alamy

Peter L. Stebbins  
Ray Stevens

Adriana P. Wroblewski

Jane B. Paunger  
Christine LaPlante

Tom Kunkin

C. D. LaPaola

Francesca P. P. P.

Thomas L. Laithe

S. J. J.

Jay Miller

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Signed:

Dr. J E Zang -  
Pastor, St Andrew Catholic Church  
Giri Podichetty

Vanessa Groher

Emma Nair

Ray MacDonal  
Sto Remington  
Jean Eilers