

Dear Oregon State Congress,

I am writing to you today as a patient of Oregon's healthcare system and as an Oregon working class resident. It has become painstakingly obvious that the healthcare system is falling apart, and that it could have been prevented. It could have been prevented by keeping private capital out of the decision making chair. By not allowing our hospital's to become corporations. By not allowing congress and other state/local officials to be bought by private capital. Instead we have allowed our healthcare system to fall apart. We have allowed our nurses to be pushed further and further to the margins, forcing their hand to either change careers or stand up and fight for better working conditions. The supposed "nursing shortage" is not the fault of the nurses but the fault of the hospitals treating the hospitals as corporations, by only focusing on exponential growth for their shareholders. So they cut corners to maximize profits. Including an outrageous nurse to patient ratio that even the most brilliant of healthcare workers would and have succumbed to burn out. This not only impacts the nurses but it also impacts us; the patients. We have less quality care now than ever before because these nurses are working around the clock attending to ten plus patients at a given time. I have to wait two to five months just to get seen by a specialist or just for a regular check up. For some patients, depending on their concern, this could be a death sentence. To be clear, mandatory staffing ratios not only help increase the quality of my care, but it can also mean life or death. That is why I support this bill and I implore that you all do as well.

Thank you,

Gabriel W Alvarado