

Submitter: Rachel Levy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

My name is Rachel Levy and I am a social worker in Portland. I fully support this bill to provide safe staffing in medical facilities.

I have spoken to many nurses and other medical professionals who are exhausted and demoralized by inadequate staffing in their workplaces. Adequate staffing is vital for patients to get the care they need. When medical facilities don't provide adequate staffing, this contributes to burnout and high turnover, which further exacerbates the issue.

Too often, nurses and other medical professionals are called "heroes," or even "superheroes," but not provided with what they need to actually do their jobs properly. Nurses should not have to skip the breaks they are legally entitled to, and they should not have to do the jobs of two or more people. That's not fair to them or to their patients-especially when there is clear evidence that inadequate staffing leads to more medical errors.

I have great respect for nurses, and I know that nursing is a very difficult job. However, nurses are not "superheroes", they are only human like the rest of us, and they need adequate breaks, support, and time provide proper care and seek help as needed.

Every medical facility has an obligation to provide safe, adequate staffing levels. I stand with Nurses United and other advocacy groups in support of this bill.