

Submitter: Jack Parshall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

As an RN at Oregon's largest healthcare organization Providence, I am asking for HB2697 be adopted by the committee. Safe staffing ratios are the key to retention and recruitment of nurses and other healthcare workers. Both Labor and Hospital representatives have spoken to retention and recruitment as being a challenge to having a robust healthcare workforce. As a direct care nurse I can tell you that the single factor that keeps nurses or attracts nurses to the bedside is what is the patient to RN ratio. The state needs to retain and recruit nurses and having safe ratios is the key to preserving our healthcare system. Many of my peers are paying attention to this legislation and it will truly determine if they remain in the profession or leave. The hospital lobby has argued that by instituting ratios would limit care. Care is already limited. Soft ratios already exist in most health systems. Capacity and work place conditions are the limiting factors of care not ratios. Why would this committee not want to work toward making Oregon the most desirable place in the nation to work? This bill would help recruit and retain nurses in Oregon.