

Submitter: Susan F

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I'm a consumer of healthcare services as a citizen of Eugene. I've unfortunately had a lot of occasion to interact with nurses in the past 3 years here. They are desperate, overworked, cynical, and bitter about their working conditions.

The shortage of nurses means longer wait times for patients like me, and less time and attention from medical staff. Many nurses quit rather than get vaccinated. Good riddance. We need science-based medicine. Then nurses went on strike for better pay and conditions. Then a lot of them went on the road because visiting nurse positions paid better. In short, we have a nurse drain here on top of the doctor shortage. It's scary.

Please do whatever it takes to make Oregon a place where nurses and doctors want to move to practice. Please enforce the rules at hospitals. The hospitals make very good money, but they spend it on a lot of things that don't positively impact patient care and outcomes. Maybe we need a cooperative hospital system or a union hospital system that does. It's time to think outside the box and stop doing the same old thing that isn't working. If we don't take good care of nurses, they can't or won't take care of us. Thank you. the life you save may be your own.