



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson, fellow committee members,

For the record I am Representative Bobby Levy, and I represent House District 58. I am excited to express my opposing for House Bill 2697.

At present, 64% of Oregon hospitals operate in the red. There are labor shortages in every industry, the health care industry is arguably more effected. The time to establish more regulations is not now. These regulations will result in an inability for patients to receive care. Hospitals have raised salaries to encourage and retain staff but they still are not fully staffed.

Traveling nurses are still required in most health care facilities because the nurse workforce numbers are suffering so severely. The staffing ratios would cause the opposite outcome than what is intended. Less patients will be seen and hospitals will be unable to pay the unsustainable civil penalties for not meeting the minimum staffing ratios. The staffing shortages will continue into the foreseeable future. This bill negatively affects the hospitals in my district, for these reasons I oppose HB 2697. We need more access to healthcare not less.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58

Bobby Henry