

Submitter: Jessica Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Jessica Reed

4255 Oak Street

Eugene, OR 97405

February 27, 2023

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2697

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

My name is Jessica Reed and I am a nurse at PeaceHealth Riverbend in the Oregon Heart and Vascular Institute (OHVI). I take care of patients who have had open heart and other cardiac surgeries.

Management at hospitals across Oregon have shared dozens of messages praising nurses as "heroes," while, at the same time, ignoring our repeated pleas for assistance. To be frank, these last few years have been extremely difficult for nurses. We don't care about being called heroes; we want help.

We need more staff.

Safe staffing ratios are directly correlated with less medical errors. Would you want your loved one to be cared for by a nurse that was being stretched thin? We're human and it's easy to miss the little things when we've got a lot on our plate. Little things add up to big things QUICKLY with our critically ill patients. Being one of the most profitable critical access hospitals in Oregon, my hospital should be putting our patients before profits. It's the moral and humane thing to do. Our community deserves better. Oregon's nurses deserve better, and our patients deserve more staff.

Please support HB 2697 and give nurses what they really need: help.

Sincerely,

Jessica Reed, RN