

Angela Buller
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February 28, 2023

RE: HB 2697 (Nurse Staffing)

Dear Chair Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair Travis Nelson, and Committee Members,

My name is Angela Buller and I am a nurse at St. Charles Medical Center, Bend.

On a regular basis, our day shift charge nurses run 2 full nurses short. On one particular Sunday I was the charge nurse on the unit, which was full at 31 total patients. Each nurse had at least 4 patients and one had 5 patients (some of the 4- patient assignments included a high acuity patient, which requires far more time for care). These numbers are not only unsustainable, but they add to the ongoing stress for our staff resulting in burnout.

Oregon's nurse staffing situation is dire, and something must be done. That's why I am supporting HB 2697. This bill will have a dramatic impact on improving working conditions for nurses which, in turn, will encourage nurses who have left the profession to return to the bedside.

As of September of 2022, the number of licensed RNs in Oregon was just over 80,000, a dramatic increase in RNs licensed in the state from 2019 where there were just over 62,000. We also know that, of those nearly 80,000 RNs currently licensed in Oregon, 55% of them work in hospitals. That means that there are another 44,000 RNs licensed in the state who are either not currently practicing or are working in non-acute care settings.

Sincerely,

Angela Buller