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RE: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2698

My name is Jennifer Bond and I am a nurse at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center.

Inconsistent staffing levels have always been the norm. The difference now is that our staffing levels are consistently UNSAFE.

Keep in mind it used to be that our 'busy time ' was at dinner and we could usually 'handle' it. Now, we are busy all the time and WE ARE NOT HANDLING IT and nurses are leaving the bedside by the hundreds.

Even though we are seeing an exodus of nurses from the bedside due to unsafe staffing levels, many people do not understand just how many RNs there are currently in the state who COULD return to work if conditions improved.

As of September 20, 2022 the Oregon State Board of Nursing reported that there were 80,123 registered nurses licensed in the state. That number is up from 68,283 in February of 2021, which is up from 62,944 in January of 2019.

This steady increase of nurses over the past couple years means there are over 17,000 more nurses licensed in the state of Oregon than there were prior to the pandemic.

So, if there are more nurses licensed in the state than there were three years ago, how is there a sudden shortage of nurses working in hospitals?

The problem isn't actually a numbers problem, it's a retention problem.

Thank you for your work to support nurses.

Jennifer Bond