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House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

RE: In Support of HB 2699

To the Committee,

The degradation of working conditions for nurses and other health care workers has been experienced across all positions at the bedside, but in particular for our Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) colleagues.

Hospital executives have shown over and over that they do not value CNAs or the demanding and exhausting work they do for Oregonians. Executives do not bat an eye at short staffing CNAs and then expecting RNs to compensate for that shortage. This is just another example of the extreme disconnect between the c-suite and the bedside: CNAs are critical and when hospitals don't hire and retain enough CNAs, it's the patients that suffer.

If the pandemic has proved one thing, it's hospitals do not value CNA's and the work they do. That is why we need regulations establishing rules for CNAs, and other healthcare staffing, like those reflected in HB 2697.

Thank you for considering this important bill.

Penn Meringolo, RN