

Submitter: Christine Holden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

This bill is essential to address our crisis of nurse shortages in Oregon. When staffing is inadequate and nurses are unheard, our state's health and welfare suffer. We have worked for years to have adequate nurse staffing in our acute care settings in Oregon. At our hospitals in Corvallis/Albany, we have utilized the Staffing Request Documentation Form, set up Nurse Staffing Committees and been stonewalled by our employer to hold meetings (cancelled by managers), been denied access to Staffing Reports to review (even by members of the the NSC)!

Important points:

Our employer does not educate our managers in existing legislation.

Nurses are stretched to care for patients when short staffed...they must file a report in addition, that goes no where.

It is essential to give OHA more resources to educate and oversee hospitals out of compliance. **WE MUST ATTRACT MORE NURSES TO HEALTHCARE!** Not scare them away with impossible work loads. This is a very real problem.

Thank you for reviewing this crucial need for healthcare in our state.