

Submitter: Russell Lum  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Nurse  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2697

Having the bare minimum staff to provide our cancer patients with the treatments they need means we nurses are reduced to hanging highly dangerous medications from one patient to the next with little time for interaction with our patients. We can't safely monitor for reactions; we can't assess for new or worsening side effects that might cause the suspension of treatment; we can't make sure patients are taking prescribed medications as directed; we can't determine if patients have a good support network who can help them navigate their care; we can't educate them effectively on the steps they can take to stay as safe and as healthy as possible in order to keep receiving their life-saving treatments; we can't do our jobs.

There have been too many of these days when we're just struggling to do the bare minimum. This is not what health \*care\* should look like in Oregon. -RN in oncology in Portland acute-care hospital