

Submitter: Katherine Lattimer  
On Behalf Of: Nurses For Single Payer  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2697  
Support for House Bill 2697

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of this critical House Committee.

My name is Katherine Lattimer, and I am the Vice President of Nurses for Single Payer. I am speaking on behalf of our organization's board, which strongly supports house bill 2697. Not only do we believe that health care is a human right for everyone, but we believe every nurse deserves to feel safe and supported in their important work.

Studies tell us nurses save lives in every setting. We believe valuing human life should not stop with the patient. We think it should be extended to their caregivers, no matter the point of care. When nurses take their lives at a higher rate than the national average, we must protect them from the trauma and moral injury they experience daily. Suicide rates rise even higher in emergency departments, psychiatric units, and trauma care settings.

Every one of us at this hearing knows a nurse, loves a nurse, is a nurse or has been treated by a nurse. Nurses should never be treated as disposable, nor should any of their multidisciplinary team members that show up for patient care and each other every day. The fundamental question before this committee is how you want to be treated at a hospital. How do you want your loved ones, your children, or your partners to be treated at a hospital? You have the power to change these outcomes; we believe you will use this power to protect nurses in urban and rural settings and the Oregonians they care for.

Thank you for your time, attention, and dedication to your constituents.

Nurses for Single Payer