

Submitter: Molly Casad

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Good Evening Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Molly Casad and I have been a nurse for 33 years and have worked the last 25 years at St. Charles in Bend.

I want to thank you for hearing my testimony in support House Bill 2697.

I am compassionate about nursing and that is why I have done it for so long. With the unsafe staffing that has been allowed to happen in Oregon's hospitals, I am NOT able to be the nurse I WANT to be or that I am CAPABLE of being! I have thought of leaving bedside nursing several times.

Here is a re-cap of one of the many shifts that made me think of quitting nursing. I had a very heavy assignment and our unit was short staffed as usual, I was sharing a CNA with two other nurses, the charge nurse was busy assigning patients from the ED, the resource/break nurse who is supposed to help out and provide breaks, was pulled into an assignment. I also was paired with FEMA traveler as her resource. She barely took care of her patients, let alone help me. It wasn't the patient that kept climbing out of bed, setting off his bed alarm, or the lady that was still sedated from anesthesia whose oxygen levels were dropping, or the fresh surgical patient that was bleeding profusely from her incision and needed multiple dressing changes. It was the elderly, confused little lady who had broken her hip and was waiting for surgery the next day. She came from a care facility and was scared and all alone. This little lady hollered out "HELP!" and screamed for someone named "Deloris" all night long. The reason she hollered all night long was because I did not have the time to console her I had to prioritize and multi-task my other four patients whose care and needs came before her. **THIS BROKE MY HEART!** What if that was your family member!

Normally, I would have went in and tried to re-orient her, console her and even sit and hold her hand. I, the veteran nurse, could barely keep my head above water. Needless to say, I finished my shift in tears, and managed to give the dayshift nurse report while crying. I felt SO bad for that little lady! She barely got any care throughout the night, let alone the care that she needed or deserved! The rest of my patient also got the bare minimum of care.

This is just ONE example of many that I could give you of the poor care that patients get and how over worked the nurses are. Thank You!