



**Lake Health District**  
*Quality Care Close to Home*

Lake District Hospital  
Lake Health Clinic  
Lake Health Specialty Clinic  
Home Health & Hospice  
Lake County Public Health  
Lake District Emergency Medical Services  
Lake District Wellness Center & Prevention

March 3, 2023

Representative Mark Owens  
900 Court Street NE, H-475,  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 3096

Dear Representative Owens:

I am writing in support of HB 3096 that would modify the existing nurse staffing law to include nursing technicians as appropriate staff when considered in the development and maintenance of the hospital nurse staffing plans. Workforce in all aspects of the delivery of healthcare services has become exceedingly difficult to find and hire in the past few years and it's at a point of breaking. This is very true in acute care settings of our hospital.

Lake Health District is a 24-bed critical access hospital located in one of the most remote parts of the Oregon where the ability to hire all types of healthcare workers is difficult in the best of times. The ability to hire nursing technicians and have them included in the hospital staffing plans would greatly help meet the dictates of the law and provide needed support to all the care givers for patients we serve. The bill would also exempt critical access hospitals from the onerous 2 nurse staff members on a unit at any time a patient is present, an extraordinary challenge at off hours in remote communities.

I fully support HB 3096 and your efforts to have it approved here in Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

Charles B. Tveit  
Chief Executive Officer