

Hello, my name is Thomas Graham. I have been a lifelong Oregonian. I am currently living in the rural city of North Plains, and I have been a practicing ER RN in the state of Oregon for 13 years.

I am currently an ER and Trauma RN at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, and have been so for the past 11 years.

I can not tell you how devastating this bill will be to my profession if passed. Nurses have given their lives to hospitals and patients only to be underpaid, overworked, and mistreated for generations. We are the backbone of the healthcare system and we are breaking. We are breaking because we see hospitals, such as Providence, making record profits during the pandemic, giving giant bonuses to their executives, all while complaining about paying nurses a fair wage.

Please do not allow the government to take part in price fixing.

Please do not lie to yourself, and others, in saying that the nurse wages are the reason for our healthcare system becoming more and more expensive.

Please stand for freedom, and with your constituents, by not allowing the government to dictate what nurses should be paid or what nurses are worth.

Nurses are leaving the profession at a record pace due to feeling burnt out, overworked, disrespected, undervalued, and underpaid. We are tired of hearing people say they love us and value us, while simultaneously working against our economic well being and safety.

We hear you and other politicians claiming to support nurses, calling us healthcare heroes, but this type of legislation does directly the opposite. This bill devalues the nursing profession by placing maximum hourly rates, set by the government, that we can be paid, yet there is no talk of legislation placing a maximum allowed salary or bonus for hospital administrators or executives.

Please, I can not emphasize enough, how devastating it will be to our already decimated morale if HB 2665 passes. It will feel like you smile to our faces then stab us in the back.

I would love to be able to sit down and discuss this further if you are available.

Thank you

Thomas Graham