

To: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans  
From: MaryAnn Grieve, RN-BC  
Oregon State Hospital  
Date: March 30, 2023

RE: HB 2701 High Risk, High Stress

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, Vice Chair Thuy, and members of the committee,

My name is MaryAnn Grieve, a Mental Health Registered Nurse at Oregon State Hospital, and member of AFSCME Local 3295. I am submitting this statement in support HB 2701 High Risk, High Stress to retain and recruit workers at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH).

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Oregon State Hospital has its own color.  
We call it "OSH Purple".  
It looks like this:



It's the color you wear a few days after something like this happens:



It was the day after Christmas, 2021.

After dodging a fist to my left temple, I still ended up with a knee to my forehead.

I also had a bloody and ripped new flannel shirt. Even though I loved that shirt, it wasn't expensive. My monies go into good shoes.

Having been through plantar fasciitis, a removal of a Taylor's bunion, arthritis in my left knee, and recent removal of growths over the tendons in both ankles...my money goes to shoes.

It's difficult to say that these conditions are directly related to work at OSH, but since I'm not at all alone in my various ailments, I tend to think there is a connection.

At the time I was hit, I was 64 and one half years old and been a registered nurse at OSH for 24 years. My total time in PERS was still less than 30 years.

I may be in Tier One, but not where retiring before age 65 would be financially adequate.

We are a pretty battered and bruised bunch.  
Torn between loving our work and killing our bodies and our mental health.



At least our insurance covers counselling and physical therapy.

HB 2701 High Risk, High Stress may not benefit me, but I hope it will gain support in order to benefit my current co-workers and promote the hiring of qualified and committed staff in the future.

We don't do this work because we want to experience the physical, mental, emotional toll it takes on all of us. It is because once we start working with the mentally ill and see their success, we become truly dedicated to continuing our efforts to help others.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Grieve, RN-BC  
Salem, OR