



To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: Trisha Walborn

Date: 2/5/24

RE: HB 4045 Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act of 2024

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

My name is Trisha Walborn and I am writing in support of HB 4045 Public Safety Workforce Stabilization to retain and recruit workers at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) and 911 telecommunicators.

I work in the dental clinic as a Dental Assistant 2 at the Oregon State Hospital. I started my career in 2021 and I have over 23 years Dental Assistant experience. I am the sixteenth-family member out of at least three generations working at OSH. I also want to say I love my job at OSH and plan on staying with OSH, but for a thousand dollars more a month and a better retirement. I tell myself as soon as the Department of Correction has a Dental opening I will apply, but really you can get any job with the Department of Correction and get a better retirement and feel safer. From my own experience I was a temp at the Department of Correction and know that the Dental Assistants do not have to badge in and out of a secure perimeter like Oregon State Hospital employees.

I was told by our safety committee that the dental clinic is the most dangerous place due to patients not being in restraints, plus we have very sharp instruments we use during our treatments, we do an instrument count after every patient to ensure staff and patient safety.

One time I was seeing a patient who had a toothache and after we told the patient that the x-ray showed no cavities or infection, the patient got upset and thank God the patient grabbed the computer mouse to throw, not an instrument, at us. After that the patient started to chase me when finally, transportation security was able to grab the patient and have them leave the dental clinic.

I do believe this HB 4045 would improve the recruit and retention issues the Oregon State Hospital has going on. This problem has been going on for years and even when my dad work here, he worked so much overtime because the hospital was short staff, he missed out on most of my childhood events. This has been going on for way to long and something needs to change, and I believe HB 4045 will get people to stay and not leave Oregon State Hospital.

I ask members of the committee to fully support HB 4045, I believe this bill will help state's Psychiatric, Dentist, Dental Assistant, MHT, OS2, LPN and Nursing workforce who are in direct patient care in the secure psychiatric facility. We need this Bill to pass so OSH can continue to do our jobs serving patients.

Thank You for your time and consideration.

Trisha Walborn Dental Assistant 2 at Oregon State Hospital