



Support for HB 4136

February 7, 2024

To: Chair Nosse Vice Chair(s) Goodwin and Nelson, and Committee Members

From: Paige Spence, Director of Government Relations, Oregon Nurses Association

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4136 on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a professional association and labor union representing over 17,000 nurses and healthcare professionals across Oregon.

In August 2023, PeaceHealth announced the abrupt closure of Sacred Health Medical Center University District (SHUD) in Eugene, and the transfer of some services, would take place just 90 days later. This sudden closure of essential services left little opportunity for the regional health care system to adjust while significantly increasing the strain on Sacred Heart Riverbend, region 7's level 2 trauma regional referral center.

ONA members who work at Sacred Heart Riverbend are acutely experiencing the aftermath: long wait times in the ED, long wait times to discharge a patient from the ambulance to the ED, and many patients coming to the ED for treatment of non-emergent medical or social care.

We applaud Representative Nathanson's efforts to find solutions for the ongoing health care delivery deficit in her district. In particular, nurses have sat in coalition with first responders, faith leaders, and community members and came forward recommending many of the programs that could be funded by the innovation fund in this bill.

We urge an aye vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paige Spence". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paige Spence