

Submitter: Kelley Albrecht

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4089

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for considering my testimony. As the spouse of a registered nurse who has worked in Oregon in a number of different settings, I am familiar with some of the challenges that nurses face in performing their duties. Unfortunately, many of those challenges are not in the caring of patients, but rather the work conditions. Understaffing, overworking, and shifting schedules are an avoidable strain on these essential workers. HB 4089 takes some important strides towards ameliorating these factors. Especially for those nurses working in a non-unionized setting.

The toll from being overworked and caring for too many patients takes such a toll on our nurses, that some have left the profession or moved to other job locations--often to those which have unionized where conditions are better. However, it is not just the burnout of our nurses that HB 4089 can help to prevent: Patients' lives are on the line, as well. When a nurse cannot give the proper level of care to their patient due to the work environment, critical conditions can be overlooked, and patients can die.

Nurses are the backbone of our health care system, and we must do everything we can to ensure that they can provide us with the best care possible. HB 4089 will help to do just that.

Thank you,

Kelley Albrecht