

Submitter: Thomas Blickle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3220

To the Legislature:

My name is Thomas Blickle. I have been a Registered Nurse for 34 years. I have taught nursing at the community college level in Oregon for 28 years, as a combined theory and clinical instructor. Currently I am employed at Lane Community College. I am deeply opposed to HB 3220. While I sympathize with any attempt to increase the number of nurses in our state, this bill is short-sighted. Simply increasing more students into the hospital or clinical site without increasing the faculty to oversee them fails to take into account the oversight those students need, both for their own academic success and for the safety of the public.

I have witnessed nursing school become exponentially harder for the students over the last 30 years. The responsibilities for patient safety on their part have increased sharply. The hospital day at the best of times is hectic. The nurses on the floor have less time to supervise students than in former years. I have no doubt that if this bill passes, patient safety will be impacted.

Frankly this bill would be like someone saying "We need more childcare facilities. Let's double the number of children in those facilities but do nothing to increase staff or resources".

There are certainly creative ways possible to increase nursing school enrollment. If the writers of this bill are interested, faculty in nursing schools across the state would be happy to offer ideas.

If this bill enforces 10 students per instructor, the risks to student and patient are very real. If this bill "allows" 10 students per instructor, it means the same thing, because school administrators will enforce the 10/1 ratio in their efforts to increase revenue. This bill if successful would sharply increase the stress for students, whose heavy responsibilities would now have less oversight. And it would endanger the public.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all you do for our state.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas Blickle, RN MS

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