

March 13, 2025

Senator Deb Patterson, Chair

Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair

Senate Health Care Committee

RE: Support SB 24-1

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

Prioritize Safety for DOC Medical Staff & Increase Access to AIC Healthcare - Support SB 24

As an Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) Medical Staff/DOC colleague, I am concerned about the short staffing in DOC, and how much overtime is regularly required of me and my team. Public safety workers have been shouldering mandatory overtime that has been exacerbated by short staffing which accelerated around 2020.

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The number of DOC medical professionals and health care staff must increase. Oregon's current staffing ratios are way below federal recommendations. As an example, the federal government recommends a ratio for medical doctors at 1 doctor for every 200 female AICs and 1 doctor for 250 male AICs. By contrast, our best information tells us that Oregon has an employee ratio between 600:1 and 1,000:1 AICs to doctors/nurse practitioners, which is four to five times the federal recommendations.

The reality is that there is a backlog of AICs needing preventative visits, which increases the acuity of their medical needs by the time AICs get medical treatment.

Join me and stand with DOC medical staff who are attempting to provide timely, high quality medical care to AICs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alisha Cargile

Office specialist 2

Bhs intake Ccic

Years of Service: 4

March 13, 2025

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Senate Health Care Committee

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Join me and stand with DOC medical staff who are attempting to provide timely, high quality medical care to AICs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carly Keller

Correctional officer

SRCI

Years of Service: 1

March 13, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration,

Brittany Ivy

Payroll Analyst

OSP and DOC HQ

Years of Service: 8

March 13, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration,

Jimmi Blanchet

Institutional RN

EOCI

Years of Service: 20.5

March 13, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Claborn

Institution Registered Nurse

Deer Ridge Correctional Facility

Years of Service: 8.5

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Due to the shortage I have often had to respond to emergency situations with a nurse because there were not enough nurses to go. I am not a nurse and therefore causing more stress onto the nurse that is responding because they don't have another properly trained nurse with them to assist. There are many times that the office staff have had to be pulled from their regular duties to assist with being a chaperone for a nurse because there is not enough staff. I worked at OSCI for 6 years. Just recently, I had to transfer because of the toll it has taken on my health due to all of the stress from being short staffed. The demands that are placed upon the staff are unreasonable for the level of staffing we are provided. It is putting everyone involved at risk. This needs to be addressed before someone gets injured or loses their life. Please take a tour at one of these facilities without management present, and ask the staff questions and you will get some chilling answers.

Join me and stand with DOC medical staff who are attempting to provide timely, high quality medical care to AICs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mandy Green

Health Information Specialist

Health Services Central

Years of Service: 9

March 13, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration,

Jenny Langston

corrections

TRCI

Years of Service: 25

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Thank you for your consideration,

Lori Schain

Institutional Registered Nurse

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

Years of Service: 16

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Senate Health Care Committee

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Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Kuykendall

Office Specialist 2

Columbia River Correctional Institution

Years of Service: 7

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Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Eriksen

Institution RN

Deer Ridge Health Services

Years of Service: 1.5

March 13, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration,

Melissa Landa Gonzalez

Office Specialist

TRCI

Years of Service: 1

March 13, 2025

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Lori Schain

Institutional Registered Nurse

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

Years of Service: 16

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Thank you for your consideration,

Rosa Lopez

QMHP

OSP Penitentiary

Years of Service: 7

March 13, 2025

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Senate Health Care Committee

RE: Support SB 24-1

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Thank you for your consideration,

Hailey Coleman

Registered Nurse

Two Rivers Correctional Institution

Years of Service: 7

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I would like to add that we are constantly getting more and more tasks added to our requirements. In addition to our population needing more and more help, both medically and mentally, young and old. Our patients' needs fall in the lap of the medical staff, especially the nurses. Our Behavioral Health Services (BHS) team is not available onsite 24/7, so we have to respond. As this continues to happen, our staffing is either staying the same, or worse yet, decreasing. The conditions of the short staffing are very unsafe for both the patients and the staff who are trying to give the best care possible with the limited resources available.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deanna Fields, RN

Santiam Correctional Institution

Years of Service: 9yrs

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Brittany Ivy

Payroll Analyst

OSP and DOC HQ

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Jenny Langston

corrections

TRCI

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Prioritize Safety for DOC Medical Staff & Increase Access to AIC Healthcare - Support SB 24

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Oregon currently does not have statutory DOC minimum staffing requirements, and overtime is mandatory for a worker to stay employed in good standing. If overtime is declined by a DOC employee, they may be subject to discipline. Staff may be mandated with little or no notice, and medical on-call, these facilities are 24/7, which places a relentless burden on them and takes time away from their family and friends. These excessive overtime shifts also increase the chances that I will have an on the job injury while taking care of adults in the system.

The number of DOC medical professionals and health care staff must increase. Oregon's current staffing ratios are way below federal recommendations. As an example, the federal government recommends a ratio for medical doctors at 1 doctor for every 200 female AICs and 1 doctor for 250 male AICs. By contrast, our best information tells us that Oregon has an employee ratio between 600:1 and 1,000:1 AICs to doctors/nurse practitioners, which is four to five times the federal recommendations.

The reality is that there is a backlog of AICs needing preventative visits, which increases the acuity of their medical needs by the time AICs get medical treatment.

Join me and stand with DOC medical staff who are attempting to provide timely, high quality medical care to AICs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erik Domenighini

Research Analyst

Remote

Years of Service: 4

March 13, 2025

Senator Deb Patterson, Chair

Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair

Senate Health Care Committee

RE: Support SB 24-1

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

Prioritize Safety for DOC Medical Staff & Increase Access to AIC Healthcare - Support SB 24

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Join me and stand with DOC medical staff who are attempting to provide timely, high quality medical care to AICs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Scott Toombs

Correctional Officer

CRCI

Years of Service: 21

March 13, 2025

Senator Deb Patterson, Chair

Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair

Senate Health Care Committee

RE: Support SB 24-1

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

Prioritize Safety for DOC Medical Staff & Increase Access to AIC Healthcare - Support SB 24

As an Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) staff member and colleague of DOC Medical staff, I am concerned about the short staffing in DOC, and how much overtime is regularly required of our Health Services team. Public safety workers have been shouldering mandatory overtime that has been exacerbated by short staffing which accelerated around 2020.

Oregon currently does not have statutory DOC minimum staffing requirements, and overtime is mandatory for a worker to stay employed in good standing. If overtime is declined by a DOC employee, they may be subject to discipline. Staff may be mandated with little or no notice, and medical on-call, these facilities are 24/7, which places a relentless burden on them and takes time away from their family and friends. These excessive overtime shifts also increase the chances that members of our Health Services team will have an on the job injury while taking care of adults in the system.

The number of DOC medical professionals and health care staff must increase. Oregon's current staffing ratios are way below federal recommendations. As an example, the federal government recommends a ratio for medical doctors at 1 doctor for every 200 female AICs and 1 doctor for 250 male AICs. By contrast, our best information tells us that Oregon has an employee ratio between 600:1 and 1,000:1 AICs to doctors/nurse practitioners, which is four to five times the federal recommendations.

The reality is that there is a backlog of AICs needing preventative visits, which increases the acuity of their medical needs by the time AICs get medical treatment.

Join me and stand with DOC medical staff who are attempting to provide timely, high quality medical care to AICs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. David Betts

DOC Chaplain

Santiam Correctional Institution

Years of Service: 11