

February 6, 2026

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for HB 4074 – Ensuring Reliable Hospital Care for Our Community

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Forester, and I am a nursing leader and community member in southern Oregon. I am writing to express my support for HB 4074.

Our communities depend on our hospitals to have long term sustainability with an emphasis on quality and accessibility. While the goals of the 2023 staffing law were well intentioned, this law has created unpredictable operational strain and costly administrative complexity for local hospitals ultimately resulting in risks of reduced access and loss of services for patients.

Loss of services and reductions in access will have serious impacts on Rogue Valley communities and local businesses and will contribute to the slowing of economic development and a sicker population.

HB 4074 offers targeted and thoughtful amendments to the law, maintaining safe staffing ratios while substantially reducing unnecessary financial and administrative burdens. These refinements protect patients, support the health care workforce and help ensure that essential services remain available close to home.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 4074.

Sincerely,
Katie Forester RN, BSN
Asante Director of Nursing