

To: Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee
On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Re: **Support for HB 4074 – Restoring Balance and Workability
To Oregon’s Hospital Staffing Framework**

Date: February 6, 2026

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patricia Wintemute, and I am the Chair of the Board at Asante. I write today to express strong support for HB 4074, a bill that restores **integrity** and **workability** to Oregon’s hospital staffing laws.

As a leader entrusted with the stewardship of southern Oregon’s most vital health care system, my commitment is first and foremost to our patients and the teams who care for them. While well intentioned, the 2023 changes to the law have created unpredictable **operational strain**, significant **administrative burden** and **costly regulatory complexity**.

HB 4074 offers targeted and thoughtful amendments to the law, which maintains safe staffing ratios while substantially reducing the unnecessary financial and administrative burdens currently occurring. These refinements **preserve the spirit** of the original legislation while restoring the flexibility hospitals need to operate effectively, respond to real-time patient needs, and sustain essential services across southern Oregon.

I respectfully urge the committee to advance HB 4074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia L. Wintemute". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Patricia L. Wintemute
Board Chair