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February 8, 2026

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

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

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Roe, and I am a board member with 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 vital health care system, our 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 that maintains safe staffing ratios while substantially reducing unnecessary financial and administrative burdens. This bill would guide hospitals to implement nurse staffing plans developed with frontline input and help standardize staffing expectations. It clarifies statutory staffing ratios and reporting requirements to improve transparency and accountability in hospitals. 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. Stronger staffing plans contribute to better outcomes for patients and nurses alike, supporting a healthier workforce and a more resilient healthcare system.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 4074 and help ensure Oregon’s hospitals are equipped to serve our communities safely and effectively.

Sincerely,

Steve Roe

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