

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 Tim O'Rourke, and I live and work 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 Nurse Staffing Law of 2023 was well intentioned, the law has created unpredictable operational strain and costly administrative complexity for local hospitals.

As someone who works in healthcare, I have heard firsthand the challenges this law has created for my organization. Combined with the other significant challenges facing healthcare delivery both regionally and nationally, we risk the loss of critical medical services and reductions in access that will have serious impacts on Rogue Valley communities and local businesses, contributing to a sicker population, increased healthcare costs, and slowing economic growth.

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 healthcare services remain available close to home for me and my family.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 4074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T A O'Rourke", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy A. O'Rourke
Ashland, OR