

February 9, 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,

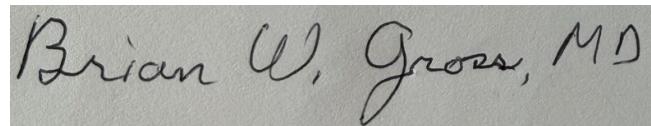
My name is Dr. Brian Gross and I am a Board member at Asante. I write today to express strong support for HB 4074, a bill designed to restore safe and effective functionality to Oregon’s hospital staffing laws.

As a >40 year practicing cardiologist in southern Oregon’s most vital health care system, we have always tried to align our patient care as physicians with the ever-changing administrative challenges, and never at the expense of patient care. While well intentioned, the 2023 changes to the law have created what we feel are punitive misinterpretations, culminating in unpredictable operational strain, excessive administrative burden and a very costly regulatory complexity. These regulations and penalties do nothing to enhance the health of our patients. Rather, the penalties divert immense funds away from us, which otherwise would have been used to advance our regional health care.

HB 4074 offers targeted and thoughtful amendments to the law, which maintains safe staffing ratios while substantially reducing the unnecessary financial and administrative burdens we are currently experiencing. These HB 4074 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 on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Brian W. Gross, MD".

Brian W. Gross, MD, FACC, FAHA