

February 9, 2026

Good afternoon Chair Noose, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson and committee members. My name is Terri Kaiser and I am the co-chair of the nurse staffing committee at OHSU-HMC. I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 4047.

If a staffing committee does not adopt a plan, than the hospital would do so on its own, thereby removing the shared governance of nurses and management. In my facility, we have been able to work collaboratively to adopt staffing plans thus increasing staff satisfaction and better patient care.

Keeping the Medical-Surgical ratios at 1 nurse to 5 patients instead of 1 nurse to 4 patients as is scheduled for June 2026, would result in higher nurse turnover, increased complaints and most importantly, patient harm.

Requiring OHA to determine if a complaints is valid within 30 days would increase the chances of complaints being dismissed due to this change in process. Dismissing a complaint due to time limits would increase the risk of a complaint not being properly investigated and potentially concerning/harmful issues would not be addressed.

HB 4074 is a reckless undoing of the progress we have made to care for our patients. The important steps we took to regulate hospital staffing to a reasonable standard, HB 2697 was passed in 2023 . HB 4047 amounts to nurses returning to a pre-2697 system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I urge you to join me in opposing the bill.

Terri Kaiser RN