

Submitter:

Duncan Zevetski

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4074

I am writing in opposition to HB 4074 in order to support safe and effective care for all Oregonians. This bill would only serve to strip Oregonians of the care they deserve in order to placate hospital executives who are not willing to be held accountable for the care the hospitals they administer deliver and who are only looking out for their profit margins. The safe staffing bill as it was originally written holds hospital administrators to count by ensuring they adopt safe staffing plans that actually allows healthcare workers to provide safe, effective and evidence based care by ensuring they are adequately staffed, adequately rested and ready to come to work to care for our patients. Oregonians are deserving of the best care that can be delivered and this bill would increase patient loads for nurses and allow hospitals to effectively investigate themselves for staffing violations.

Further, since the passage of the original safe staffing law, Oregon has been able to attract some of the best nurses in the country to our care facilities because they know their working conditions will be protected and that they will be empowered to advocate for their patients in the care they receive. At my hospital alone we have hired over 800 nurses from all over the country who report that the original safe staffing law was one of the things that attracted them to working in Oregon. Stripping the enforcement mechanisms for that law will only serve to deteriorate working conditions in our hospitals and clinics. Hospitals must be accountable to our patients and keeping enforcement in place is the best way to do it. If this bill passes it will constitute a betrayal of Oregon's working families, both those receiving care and those providing it.