

Submitter:

Claire McElroy

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4074

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4074

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Diehl, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Claire McElroy. I am an RN and have worked for 2 years.

I currently work at Kaiser Sunnyside in Clackamas, and I am a member of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP AFT-5017). I am writing in strong opposition to HB 4074.

Every day, I provide direct patient care, and the nurse staffing law passed in 2023 has a promise of real impact on my ability to do my job safely and effectively. HB 4074 would make significant changes to the enforcement of that law. If passed, my unit and hospital would continue to be chronically understaffed and stretched too thin. This is such an obvious issue in all health care fields and there need to be more steps to remedy it, like the passing of the law allowing Med-Surg nurses to have 1:4 ratios. Supporting nurses and helping us to be able to give the best care is proven to lead to better health outcomes for patients. Shouldn't this be the goal and not corporate greed?

HB 2697 was the result of years of research, negotiation, and stakeholder engagement. Rushing through changes to the statute will only put providers and patients at risk. Advancing HB 4074 now would shortcut that process and risk unintended consequences that cannot be fully evaluated in the limited time available. From my experience, the current law is working as intended, and barriers to passing plans are rooted in unwillingness to utilize escalation and acuity tools. Hospitals were given ample time to comply, and the vast majority have done so.

Weakening enforcement through delayed penalties or reduced accountability would effectively suspend the law without the thoughtful analysis such changes demand.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4074 as currently written.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire McElroy

BSN, RN