

From: Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
Re: Opposition to SB 1529 -2 Amendment
Date: 2/13/26

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP), we write in strong opposition to the -2 amendment to SB 1529. OFNHP represents more than 7,000 nurses and health professionals across Oregon and Southwest Washington who provide direct patient care in hospitals and clinics every day.

We support the -1 amendment, which would allow for improved insurance mediation. However, we strongly oppose the -2 amendment because it changes the operative date of the nurse staffing ratio plans established in 2023.

HB 2697 (2023) was enacted after decades of research demonstrating that enforceable nurse staffing standards reduce patient mortality, decrease complications, and improve nurse retention while reducing burnout. The Legislature's intent was clear: staffing standards must be enforceable to be effective. Enforcement provisions were thoroughly debated in 2023, revisited in 2025, and further examined during the interim workgroup convened by the Speaker. Delaying or altering implementation now risks weakening the accountability framework that makes the law meaningful.

Most importantly, the law is working largely as intended. Hospitals were given significant time to come into compliance, and the vast majority have done so. Changing the operative date at this stage would undermine progress that nurses and patients have worked hard to achieve.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee not to advance the -2 amendment.

Sincerely,

Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP AFT-5017)