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House Republicans, Five Democrats Vote to Alleviate Nursing Shortage 39 States Are Part of the Nurse Licensure Compact, Washington Recently Voted to Join

SALEM, OR – Today, in recognition of National Nurses Week, House Republicans attempted to withdraw [House Bill 2408](#) from the Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee. This legislation would have allowed Oregon to join the other 39 states around the nation that are a part of the [Nurse Licensure Compact](#) (NLC).

The motion to withdraw the bill failed with 30 votes in support and 29 votes against – just one vote short of the required 31 to withdraw a bill. Five Democrats voted in support of the motion.

Oregon’s nurses carried the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, this industry is facing significant burnout and workforce shortages. Being a part of the Nurse Licensure Compact would give Oregon hospitals and clinics a broader pool of nurses to recruit from and ease the burden on nurses coming into our state.

“I am proud to be a Chief Sponsor on House Bill 2408. This legislation is a commonsense solution to a critical industry shortage – a solution that the majority of Oregon’s workforce is in favor of,” **said Representative Ed Diehl (R-Stayton)**. “I know union leadership has been opposed to this compact for years, but I believe today we are closer than we have ever been to an agreement. They understand that a majority of their membership supports it. And our neighbor, Washington State, just passed it.”

“Today’s result was disappointing, but not surprising. House Bill 2408 would have provided our nursing industry the critical relief they need. I am proud to have Chief Sponsored this legislation and will continue to advocate for its adoption in the future. I am grateful for the work of our healthcare heroes every day,” **said Representative Christine Goodwin (R-Canyonville)**.

According to a survey done by the [Oregon State Board of Nursing](#), 90% of Oregon’s rank-and-file nurses want Oregon to join the NLC. On April 20, Washington Governor Inslee [signed legislation into law](#) allowing Washington to join the NLC.

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