

OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS NELSON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2023

Press Contact:

AmyBeth Altenhofen, AmyBethAltenhofen@oregonlegislature.gov

Statement from Representative Travis Nelson on Critical Wins for Oregon Health Care Workers

Thousands of health care workers to see increased wages, bonuses, and benefits

SALEM, Ore. – Representative Travis Nelson (D - N & NE Portland) celebrates critical wins for Oregon health care workers. Last week, Service Employees International Union Local 49 (SEIU) ratified their tentative agreement with Kaiser Permanente and the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) concluded a successful strike. Because of these successful negotiations, thousands of Oregon health care workers will see significant wage increases, bonuses, and increased health care and prescription benefits.

"Since the pandemic started, health care workers have been called heroes as they put their lives on the line to save thousands of Oregonians," **said Representative Nelson**, a registered nurse. "These wins show what is possible when workers have the right to bargain and stand up for what they deserve. This is about treating Oregon's frontline workers with respect and dignity, so that they can deliver better, quality care for patients across the state."

During the 2023 legislative session, Representative Nelson spearheaded <u>several important</u> <u>changes</u> to support Oregon health care workers, including <u>historic safe staffing legislation</u> and <u>investments to recruit and retain nurse educators</u>.

Representative Nelson joined the Legislature in 2022. He serves as vice chair of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care.

###