



Senate Majority Office

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## **Oregon Senate Makes Progress on Nursing Shortage, Support for Essential Health Care Workforce**

**SALEM, Ore** - Today, the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 2697](#), with bipartisan support, to address the hospital staffing shortages and help providers deliver high-quality care for their patients. The bill will specify nurse staffing ratios for specified hospital units and empower frontline health workers to have a voice in their workplaces.

[Nearly 70% of Oregon's nurses](#) say they are experiencing severe burnout, with more than three-quarters reporting that their work lives are dangerously stressful due to unsafe levels of staffing and poor working conditions. This has led to significant turnover in hospitals, further exacerbating staff shortages.

“Our nurses and frontline health workers are critically important, but they’re not getting the support they deserve and they are worn out,” said **Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem)**, chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care. “It’s time for Oregon to step up to make sure our health care workers get the support they need to protect their own health and wellness while providing quality care to all Oregonians.”

HB 2697 addresses these concerns with common-sense provisions that will require a minimum number of hospital staff in specific units to maintain safety and quality of care for patients and workers.

“Oregon is a leader in health care policy, from expanding access to driving down cost,” said **Senator Winsvey Campos (D - Aloha)**, a sponsor of House Bill 2697. “Now we are leading the nation in supporting our healthcare workforce, ensuring safe staffing levels and centering worker voices in staffing decisions.”

Protecting Oregonians’ access to health care is a key component of [Senate Democrats’ 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2697 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, HB 2697 now moves to the Governor's desk for consideration.

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