



Senate Majority Office

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Senate Advances Long and Short-Term Hospital Staffing and Care Solutions

SALEM, Ore. - Yesterday, the Oregon Senate approved [House Bill 3396](#), which advances smart solutions that will work to improve staffing levels in hospitals across, and develop solutions to discharge challenges. This bill is just one component of a broader agreement between labor and hospital stakeholders who are all committed to enhancing the quality of care provided to Oregonians.

HB 3396 establishes the Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge Challenge to develop recommendations on:

- Challenges hospitals face in discharging patients to appropriate care settings, including long-term care, rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies, and
- Recommendations to reduce barriers to education and streamline pathways to licensure for nurses and nurse assistants.

“We simply do not have enough nurses, doctors, and health care workers to meet Oregonians’ needs right now,” said **Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem)**, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care. “HB 3396 is a meaningful investment that will help us train and retain health care workers, and ensure that vulnerable individuals, like those experiencing housing insecurity, receive proper care when they are discharged.”

HB 3396 also allocates \$26.5 million to:

- Invest in clinical education opportunities,
- Award grants to increase on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities in the health care field

- Support nurse faculty at public institutions through recruitment and retention programs

“We need short and long-term solutions to our health care workforce challenges,” said **Senator Wlinsvey Campos (D - Aloha)**, Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services. “Our system is broken, and this bill will go a long way towards fixing it.”

Solving Oregon’s health care workforce shortages is a key component of [Senate Democrats’ 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 3396 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 3396 now moves to the Governor’s desk for consideration.

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