

# Working together to support our health care workforce



The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA), Service Employees International Union Local 49 (SEIU), Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP) and the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) have come together and agreed on a package of legislation that supports hospital staff, builds a pipeline of health care workers, addresses hospital capacity and discharge challenges, and improves the state's cost growth target to support investment in frontline caregivers.

Please join us in making sure HB 2697, SB 1079 and HB 2742 are passed and that investments are made to support our health care workforce.

## HB 2697: Supporting hospital staff

Gives professional, technical, and service health care workers a stronger voice in the creation of staffing plans, and in certain hospital units, establishes enforceable statutory nurse-to-patient ratios that we hope will prevent staff burnout and return nurses to the bedside. Oregon will be first in the nation with a ratio for certified nursing assistants as well. The legislation also reduces many of the administrative burdens hospitals currently struggle with and builds partnerships that we hope will help ensure access to care for patients in the future.

## Workforce funding: Building a pipeline of health care workers

Nearly \$40 million in investments to add new clinical training opportunities for a variety of health care professions and incentivize nurses to work at the bedside and as faculty for nursing schools. This includes the establishment of the Nurse Educator Workforce Stipend Program with \$16 million in general fund to increase the recruitment and retention of nurse faculty. These investments support not only hospitals, but also other care providers along the continuum of care.

## SB 1079: Developing solutions to address hospital capacity and post-acute care

On any given day, hundreds of people are cared for in hospitals in Oregon while they wait to be discharged to a more appropriate care setting due to discharge barriers that include a lack of availability in care settings that meet their needs. SB 1079 creates a task force that will create policy and funding recommendations in 2024 that will address discharge barriers and enhance the post-acute care continuum in a patient-centered way.

## HB 2742: Improving the health care cost growth target program to support investments in the health care workforce

Since the cost growth target was created in 2018, the COVID-19 pandemic and its unforeseen consequences have highlighted the fragility of our delivery system, the volatility of our economy, and the steps necessary to ensure access to care for patients. HB 2742 makes changes to the state's cost growth target to exempt health care workforce costs for frontline caregivers, allowing hospitals and other health care providers to invest in their staff without facing penalties from the state.

Contact: Andi Easton, OAHHS 503-559-1059  
Paige Spence, ONA 404-583-8726  
Matt Swanson, SEIU 503-881-4529

