

Hospital Regulation Legislation: Senate Bill 1354 Testimony

- Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.
- My name is Jennifer Misajet and I serve as Chief Nursing Officer for the Saint Alphonsus Health System with 5 hospitals across southwest Idaho and eastern Oregon. It is my pleasure to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1354, on behalf of our organization.
- It is always our highest priority to ensure the safety of our patients as we provide care for them on a daily basis. We have many policies, systems, and processes in place to ensure the safest and best care is provided, in compliance with regulations and guidelines set forth by federal and state government agencies and by accrediting organizations such as the Joint Commission.
- However, we face immense challenges when regulations imposed by the state are inconsistent and even more stringent than the regulations imposed by federal regulations under CMS. Since last July when the new state Hospital Facility Standards rules went into effect, we have had to pivot quickly to change processes and allocate significant additional staffing resources to comply with state regulations which are much more burdensome than CMS regulations. ***(insert stats here about staffing increases & disruption of workflow)*** *Since July 1st, 2019 we have seen a 25% increase in required observation hours from 2018 correlated to the new state requirements that went into effect July 1, 2019. To meet the new regulation and be complaint we have used a total of 1,240 eight-hour shifts covered by non-Patient Safety Attendants colleagues to include Registered Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants. This has resulted in the need to hire an additional 60 Patient Safety Attendants to meet the former regulatory requirements in addition to the new state requirements.*
- At a time when we are challenged by workforce shortages, we are being required to allocate scarce resources to meet these new, duplicative and

unnecessary requirements that place a burden on hospitals and individual staff nurses. This over-regulation has added costs to the healthcare we provide, without necessarily increasing quality.

I sincerely thank you for considering this important legislation to ease the burden of over-regulation on our nurses and our organizations, and I urge your YES vote to send Senate Bill 1354 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

- I would be happy to stand for questions.