

Testimony in Support of HB 3402

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee my name is Tony Klein and I have worked for the DOC for almost 7 years now. Mandating nurses to stay for 16 hours is the current practice. This happens for a few reasons, 1: nurses on the next shift call in sick, 2: there are empty holes in the schedule that managers do not fill or cannot fill due to nobody volunteering, and 3: incorrectly scheduling staff on the manager's behalf. Managers can tell us anytime during the shift that we are staying for the next shift. I start at 5:30 am and normally get off at 2:00 pm. When I get mandated I stay until 10:00 pm and am expected to be back at work at 5:30 the next morning. Only 7.5 hours later. After being at work for 16.5 hours, driving home can be dangerous. If I leave work right on time I can be in bed about 11pm. Up at 4:30. That puts me working the next day on at best 5.5 hours of sleep.

Worse yet, we can be mandated back to back days. It happened just last week to one of my co-workers. He was mandated back to back days. 16.5 hours each day. It is an unsafe practice for the nurses and for our patients as well.

As nurses, we are held to a high standard of professionalism and are required to provide state mandated care to the inmates in state custody. It is a very stressful job on a good day without being mandated.

Thank you for your time on this. Please let me know if I can be of other assistance.

Respectfully Submitted

Toby Klein