

Our hospital is a small, 25-bed, critical access hospital that is at least 130 miles in any direction to the nearest hospital that can provide a higher level of care for our patients. We currently have 18 CNAs and 25 RNs (soon to be 27) on staff for direct patient care. Our nurse staffing committee is comprised of the CNO, the manager for surgery, the manager for general nursing, an RN from surgery, an RN from general nursing, and a CNA. Our nursing staff essentially work within two primary departments since our staff work in almost all areas within these two departments. We feel this mix appropriately represents our needs.

Requiring 3 CNAs in our committee would force us to have unequal representation because we don't have enough management staff to match the number of direct care staff for this new amendment. This would force us to go against the current requirement for equal numbers of members from management and direct care staff. In addition, most of our nursing staff are RNs and this new representation mix would also not be proportional to the ratio of RNs and CNAs in our facility.

In short, I cannot support the proposed amendment to HB 2945. I do agree good and fair representation of all direct care staff is important but I feel we are currently meeting this. If the amendment can be re-worded to reflect this intent it would be easier to support the changes, but in supporting it as it is currently written, I feel would not be realistic for our organization or any other critical access hospital our size.

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