



Chair Salinas and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about HB 2945 and supporting workers like me who would be impacted by this bill.

My name is Rick Campbell and I am a member of SEIU local 49 and I am a Certified Patient Care Assistant at Kaiser Permanente Westside Hospital. I have doing this work for 20 years and I also sit on the Hospital Nurse Staffing Committee.

I'm here today to share with you my experience of working in a hospital and shed some light on the issues that we as healthcare workers experience on a daily basis. I work nightshift and we take care of a lot of orthopedic patients who require a lot of assistance and care after they come to our floor from surgery. During the nightshift we are frequently short staffed, and this has often resulted in me being the only CNA on the floor taking care of **24 patients during that 12-hour shift**. When that happens, I don't get to critical task which impacts my ability to provide safe and critical patient care. It has resulted in delays of care to patients and rushing to help patients. There have been countless days where I couldn't complete my work and had to pass off work to the next shift which comes in short staffed as well.

We need the hospital nurse staffing committees to address these issues. As the CNA representative on the staffing committee, in my experience it has become a meeting where management addresses the concern but doesn't act to improve the situation. There needs to be an additional mechanism to hold hospital management accountable to the concerns raised. Additionally, we absolutely need the committee to include an more CNA representatives who will provide a voice for those who assist with the care of patients and also feel the stress of chronic understaffing.

Myself and my co-workers are hardworking and will do as much as we can short staffed or not within our 12-hour shifts. We will run ourselves ragged to make sure all our patient needs are met. With so many patients I try to do the best I can in the time I have. I've worked in healthcare for 20 years and have frequently worked without adequate staffing. It's time to hold hospitals accountable to providing safe staffing for their care. I implore the legislature to act boldly in addressing chronic short staffing and give CNA's a voice in this process.

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