

Submitter: Marinelle De Veyra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the nurse-patient ratio in some of our critical care areas, namely ICU, medical surgical nursing, and emergency room, including psychiatric emergency services. As a healthcare professional, I believe it is essential to have a safe and adequate nurse-patient ratio to provide optimal care and prevent adverse outcomes.

It is widely recognized that staffing ratios affect the quality of patient care and the outcomes of hospitalizations. Patients in critical care areas are often acutely ill, requiring frequent and intense monitoring and intervention. A high workload and understaffing can lead to burnout, exhaustion, and medical errors, jeopardizing patient safety.

Studies have shown that a nurse-patient ratio of 4:1 or less in critical care areas is associated with lower mortality rates, decreased length of stay, and reduced costs. In contrast, higher ratios have been linked to increased rates of complications, nosocomial infections, and hospital readmissions.

Moreover, maintaining a safe nurse-patient ratio can also enhance job satisfaction and retention of nursing staff. A heavy workload, inadequate staffing, and mandatory overtime are some of the reasons why nurses leave the bedside, affecting continuity of care and skill mix. By creating a favorable working environment and investing in the nursing workforce, we can promote career development, leadership, and excellence in patient care.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that our state adopt a nurse-patient ratio of 4:1 or less in ICU, medical surgical nursing, and emergency room, including psychiatric emergency services. This ratio should be based on patient acuity, complexity, and workload, as well as nurse experience, skills, and qualifications. By doing so, we can ensure that our patients receive safe, compassionate, and high-quality care, while our nursing staff feel valued, supported, and empowered.

Thank you for considering my request and for your commitment to patient-centered care.

Sincerely,

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