

Submitter: Nermin Arnaut

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I have been with Kaiser over 21 years and recent shortage of staff is affecting us in a very negative way. I do relief charge occasionally and (quite often) we get only two break's covered for lunch. On a 20-bed critical care arena unit, there are 7 nurses and myself (8 total) in a need of a lunch break coverage. When I get only two break's covered, I am the one who is in charge of making sure that everyone gets their break. This means that I start 'breaking' nurses at 11am, everyone gets one hour break coverage, which results in last lunch (mostly mine) that starts around 16:30-16:45 pm. Considering that I arrive to work at 6:15am, stay there for 12.5 hours, and take my lunch break close to 5pm makes this hard job even harder. A few times we had absolutely no lunch help, meaning that I alone had to provide lunch coverage for eight nurses (gotta be extremely creative when this happens). All this practice is not safe at all for my coworkers as well as patients. Also, not cool at all.