

Submitter: Joshua Fiver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

As a nurse of more than twelve years, I support this bill. Please, take a look at hospital executive salaries, the big systems' slush funds and profits, how much they spend on lobbying to destroy bills like this and any profit-threatening safety measure that patient and worker advocates propose. Then, compare those figures with the real-life results of this ongoing crisis - unnecessary patient harm and death due to neglect, healthcare worker suicides, rates of addiction, mental illness, economic hardship, permanently exiting the field, surging rates of burnout and despair. This is also my personal experience and I witness it daily; I will -never- work in a hospital again. Please, read testimonials from nurses, patients and providers about the state of healthcare and consider how those negative experiences are impacted by the simple fact that workers can only do so much under working conditions that continue to worsen, treating ever more highly acute and specific diagnoses with new technologies requiring more, not less, attention. Pay close attention to the testimonials highlighting that patients, who are all of us, aren't getting what they need. I've seen this over and over, at the heart of "burnout" is the moral injury of being forced to neglect our patients because of a refusal to pay for adequate staff. The healthcare staffing crisis has happened before in the US and this most recent instance was projected and documented in nursing literature since before I began nursing school fourteen years ago. It cannot be emphasized enough that, given their intentional dereliction of duty, the captains of the new Healthcare Industry should be held to account to comply with their own mission statements. If this means that some of the most decrepit, overly-bureaucratized, top-heavy, greedy and unresponsive "leadership" institutions have to restructure and reprioritize to serve their intended purpose, with the people who actually do the work in mind and patient care at the central focus, then let it begin immediately.