

Submitter: Lara Savoie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Dear Chair of the House Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my personal experience with health care understaffing. For the last several years there has been a significant shortage of skilled technical staff in the ultrasound departments throughout the state. Riverbend PeaceHealth hospital has been operating purposely at a "lean" staffing scenario that even pre-dates the Covid pandemic. The hospital has decreased staffing, increased "on-call" hours, and increased our productivity index which translates into more hours scanning patients which is painful for the ultrasound technologists, causes injury on the job from repetitive motions, and becomes an unsafe environment for both patients, staff, and physicians.

Our minimum call burden is currently 86 hours a month IF we are fully staffed, no one is out with Covid 19, and no one is out on vacation. When a technologist is out, we must increase our call burden as there are no available vascular travelers at this time in our departments.

When we are on-call we are required to come in within 30 minutes and report to one of two hospitals and perform exams round the clock. At times, it will be 3 am and we are at the Rivberbend hospital, only to be paged to the emergency department at the other hospital. We must get in our own cars, drive to the other facility, perform the test, then drive home. Unfortunately, we can be called in several times throughout the night and are required to report to work on time the next day and work a full shift.

The "lean" philosophy affects both patient care waiting times, staff safety, and ordering physician quality issues due to overworked staff with a small stipend of \$5.00 per hour to carry a pager. Our home life is severely impacted when we are on call because we will typically have been up round the clock and have to still be a mother or father when we get home that next day. It impacts relationships, personal health, and well-being.

I am appreciative that you are investigated this matter, as BOLI has not attended to this matter and has little to offer over-worked staff.

Sincerely,

Lara Savoie, RVT