

Submitter: Richard Botterill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

For the record my name is Richard Botterill. I am an ER nurse of twelve years and urge you to pass House Bill 2697.

In 2021, a paper was published titled "Nurse staffing legislation: Empirical evidence and policy analysis." In 2021 a paper entitled "The Benefits of Nurse-to-Patient staffing Ratio Laws and Regulations."

Contrary to some arguments against House Bill 2697, these papers provide empirical data that shows staffing ratios result in improved patient outcomes across the board.

Improvements include:

- Reduced fall incidence, reduced hospital acquire infections
- Reduced hospital acquired pressure injuries
- Reduced length of stay
- Improved charting and documentation
- Improved care planning
- Improved psychological and emotional support
- Improved patient communication and education
- Reduced number of hospital readmissions
- Decreased mortality risk and a reduction in patient mortality (up to 14% reduction)
- A 24% increase in survivability post cardiac arrest
- Reduced number of ICU admissions
- Reduced nurse burnout
- Increased nurse retention and resulting reduced nurse turnover
- Increased staff and patient safety

Today due to nurse attrition and failure to attract nurses, we are faced with a dangerous and unsafe healthcare environment

If we do not stop and reverse this trend, the situation will continue to deteriorate.

- It will become more risky and more broken.
- Our communities will become sicker.
- There will be less and less staff to provide care, and we run the risk of staffing hospitals with less qualified and less experienced nurses which will bring another level of risk.
- More people will develop more complications.
- More people will die as a result of decreased staffing and the resulting reduced levels of care.
- Now is the time to support the nurses who continue to care for our communities, our families, and our loved ones.
- The alternative is a more dysfunctional and dystopian health care system
- And if that is allowed to happen, then shame on all of us!

I cannot overstate the importance of HB2697 to nurses across the state. When enacted, the law must have teeth, it must be administered appropriately by the OHA and other agencies, without which we are all just wasting our time.

Thank you - please do what is right for our communities – and for humanity – because this is a world wide crisis that you have the opportunity to halt and reverse.