

Submitter: Keren Beadle
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2697

To whom it may concern, 2/28/23

I am writing to you as a recently hospitalized patient. I am also an RN. I am going to speak to my experience as a patient. I had surgery at the end of January, which led to some complications requiring a hospital stay of 2 days. During that 2 days, I was in an unsafe situation. As a nurse, I knew what I needed, but the nurses caring for me, were unable to provide it. I had more than one nurse tell me that they were unable to bring my medications to me on time, because they were so short staffed. One interaction I had, was my day shift nurse telling me, that although my pain medication was way overdue, because she had so many other patients, it would be at least another hour, before she could give me my pain medication. I had JUST had surgery! I was in excruciating pain! Imagine your own loved one, in the hospital, sobbing in pain, or scared because their own nurse could not provide a minimum level of safe care for them. My nurses were stretched way too thin. Thankfully, I knew enough to keep MYself safe, but I still suffered needlessly. And horribly.

But what about the OTHER patients who do not have my knowledge? And the other patients suffering in silence? Should we start passing out sticks for patients to bite on until we give them safe nursing staffing ratios? My time in the hospital was traumatic. My nurses were not able to meet my medication needs, so I was essentially tortured for 48 hours. My doctor wanted me to stay another day in the hospital, but I knew I would be safer at home under my own care than to stay another day in a desperately short staffed hospital. This HAS to change. Patients deserve better. I deserved better. In my job, I know the challenges of working short staffed, and I do not want ANY nurse to lose her/his license because of it, or any other horrible outcomes. As a patient, I was horrified by how unsafe the conditions were, and how much I personally suffered because of it. Safe staffing ratios are needed NOW. Next time, it could be your loved one.

Sincerely,

Keren Beadle, RN
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