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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

As a postpartum staff nurse at Kaiser Sunnyside I have witness the hospital system not staffing per our contract . Example per our staffing plan approved by the hospital and nurses we are suppose to have a break nurse so nurses are not breaking each other which we would be caring for 12 couplets six moms and six babies . We are a high risk unit so our mom and babies are more complex and have higher care than an average postpartum couplet. I was a break nurse for over two years . Even though it's in our staffing plan the hospital recently eliminates this position without reason and very little notice . So many times now nurses are unable to get their breaks as no one can take their patient load as charge nurses are getting patient loads too. So without regulation like a staffing law nurses will become burnt out and causing irreversible morale injury . We can only do so much and more and more tasks being put on our shoulders . They are also slowly eliminating ancillary staff like CNA's and secretaries who help lighten our loads . If hospital have no regulations it has become obvious they won't do what is right as they are not even following a simple approved staffing plan . Unfortunately there is no repercussions if they don't .

Also OHA was suppose to follow up with one of my many ADO but never follow through due to covid and not wanting to enter the hospital. Currently we have no one that can cause repercussions for a hospital to follow their own rules . Who is taking care of the nurses ? At this time no one . We need more nurses not less . I implore that the staffing law gets passed so good quality care can be given to our patients and nurses stayed in the field which we love but have morally bankrupted us.