

Submitter: Monica Warner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

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I strongly support the passing of Measure HB 2697. Patient and nurse safety have to come first. I'm a nurse in a rural area with limited resources. That doesn't mean we have to accept lesser standards. I see hospital administrators opposing this measure, claiming they need "flexibility". That "flexibility" means one thing; they want to overload the nurses, and ignore the impact it has on safety, or nurse well-being. Then, when a mistake is made, crucify the nurse for their so-called negligence. This is happening now.

I left my full-time position at the emergency room, because the stress and safety issues were too much. I was consistently filling out Short Staffing forms, with no real changes or results. At staffing meetings, I would hear these vague solutions from management, for example, "The charge nurses need more training on delegating pt assignments", or equally insulting feedback. Charge nurses know how to appropriately assign patients, but often, 75% or more of the staffing, are agency, travelers, or new grads. That's an unsafe mix. Combine that with a lack of retention efforts by the hospital, and it leads to burn out of the staff remaining.

By bringing other disciplines into this staffing measure, outside of nursing, it protects the patient on several other, equally important, levels.

If conditions were improved, I would return to critical care, but without this measure passing, they are only going to get worse. I know several nurses who left the hospital bedside, who feel the same.

Please put patients over hospital profits, and pass this measure.

Monica Warner, RN, BSN, CEN