

Submitter: Katriza Lardizabal
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4074. As a registered nurse with over 10 years of experience, I have seen firsthand how staffing ratios directly impact patient safety, quality of care, and healthcare outcomes.

The proposed ratios in this bill are not safe for patients, particularly in medical-surgical units where nurses and CNAs are already stretched thin. Despite current staffing levels, we are seeing increasing rates of hospital-acquired pressure injuries, patient falls, and delayed care due to inadequate staffing and rising patient acuity.

Medical-surgical patients today are sicker and require more complex care than ever before. Even with four patients, nurses often struggle to meet essential needs safely. Adding a fifth patient per nurse places patients and staff at even greater risk.

When nurses are responsible for too many high-acuity patients, the consequences are unavoidable. Patients wait longer for pain medication. Post-surgical patients may not be ambulated on time. Basic care such as bathing and hygiene is delayed or missed. Call lights go unanswered longer. Discharges are delayed. Documentation and medication errors become more likely, not because nurses are careless, but because they are overwhelmed.

I ask you to consider how you would feel if you or a loved one were hospitalized under these conditions. Would you be comfortable waiting extended periods for pain relief? Would you accept delayed assistance after surgery or limited monitoring because staff are overburdened?

Nurses want to provide safe, compassionate, and thorough care. However, unsafe staffing ratios make this increasingly difficult. This bill does not support patient safety or nurse retention. Instead, it increases burnout, turnover, and the risk of serious medical errors.

For the sake of patients, families, and frontline healthcare workers, I urge you to reconsider and oppose HB 4074. We need policies that strengthen bedside care, not weaken it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Katriza Lardizabal
Registered Nurse
10 Years of Experience