

Submitter: Melissa Pfeleger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

As a nurse for the past 13 yrs I have seen us work to emotional exhaustion especially this past 3 years. We are seeing more patients who are sicker needing more care. There are no beds to admit them to from the emergency department. When we board patients in the ED we cannot see the rest who are in the waiting room or coming by ambulance. Our hospitals go on divert and patients have no where to go to get the care they need. Why? because there are not enough nurses to take care of these patients. We need to ensure hospitals are taking a more proactive approach to retaining nurses and quicker hiring practices. If the hospitals cannot do this then they should have penalties against them. The hospitals continually want to use the "crisis staffing models" which ultimately hurt the patient and wear out the staff. Don't give a nurse more patients than they can care for this needs to be based on the acuity ( how many resources the patient needs/ how sick they are) of the patient. Many studies show that when a nurse is given more patients the level of care decreases and mistakes increase. No nurse goes to work and says how many mistakes can I make today and get away with it! Please listen to us and our suggestions to improve our staffing models, our healthcare system is failing and your family may pay the price.