

Submitter: Russell Lum
On Behalf Of: Kayla Betancourt RN
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2697

I support HB 2697.

It feels that administration and management truly do not care about safety regarding low staffing. They push units to admit patients without giving mind to how dire things may look for the next shift, and then scramble to get volunteers to help at the last minute. We have a minimum staffing grid and we go beyond that constantly. If charge nurses did not push back, we would be pushed to fill our units constantly despite it being unsafe and too heavy of a workload. I worry that since the current law is not ratio-based, under current law we will be pushed to go beyond our standard and safe ratios if our acuity levels are low. I worry that my hospital will use this to their advantage. I also feel that charge nurses on any unit should never have to take a patient assignment, though this happens constantly, especially on nights. —Kayla Betancourt, RN at Portland acute care hospital