

Submitter: Jackson Doty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

A month after my girlfriend and I contracted COVID, we spent two nights in a row in the emergency room because my partner was having severe heart attack symptoms. On the first night, we spent 8 hours waiting for a bed and never got one. We left after only having her EKG quickly checked. We slept the whole night in waiting room chairs as did the three unaccompanied elder women who had been there even longer than us. The second night was the same but this time we waited 10 hours before finally getting a bed. Both nights staff came out and tried to explain to us that because of staff shortages and a lack of beds, the waiting times were going to be extraordinarily long. I am writing this today to share an experience that is directly caused by staff shortages. Hospital staff deserve to have their voices heard and have more agency over staffing. These decisions are best made by the workers themselves and not by management who are trying to cut financial corners.