

Submitter: Z K

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

I support HB 2697 because it will protect nurses, improve the quality of care for patients, and support the future of public healthcare.

Nurses face high levels of stress due to the demands of their profession. Without adequate support, many are at risk of work exhaustion and burnout. Burnout, described as a collapse of ability to care due to being overworked and unsupported, is a health hazard. Without policies to ensure they have adequate support, nurses are forced to compromise the level of care they give patients.

If nurses' needs are not supported when they are working, they will not be there when they are needed.

I've had many encounters with healthcare workers and in the past I felt like I was not being listened to. After my twin sister became a nurse, I started to hear the other side. In five years working in the cardiology unit, she had witnessed many nurses burn out. These people entered nursing wanting to help people, but had to quit because they weren't able to keep up with the stressful demands and long work hours. For nurses, burnout is a critical issue.

We cannot continue neglecting the needs of our healthcare providers. We must invest in our nurses wellbeing and ensure they have the support needed, so that they will be there when they are needed.