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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2697

Working in rural community hospital, I believe there is not a one size fits all staffing plan. Small or rural hospitals will struggle to meet rigid ratios when we already face challenges in recruitment.

We have a workforce shortage that we have been anticipating for 25 years or more. The pandemic pushed that shortage to happen even quicker in my opinion. Many nurses nearing retirement age retired early when the pandemic became reality. Yet the fact is, they would have retired within 10 years anyway.

Hospitals are already struggling with staffing burdens due to severe bottle necks to get patients out of the hospital into lower levels of care.

Rigid staffing ratios for all hospitals is not the answer!