

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing in opposition of SB 1076. As an RN I am opposed to this bill.

Currently, there is a national nursing shortage. Emergency Departments are feeling this greatly due to COVID and the lack of capacity on the inpatient units.

Our Emergency Departments are overflowing with patients waiting to be moved to an available inpatient bed. Every inch of hallway space is filled with stretchers and patients requiring medical attention. Our ED Physicians are seeing patients in unconventional areas because all the rooms are filled, and patients keep coming through the front door and by ambulance. The EDs do not have an off switch. EMTALA requires that every person be screened for an emergent condition.

I believe the intent of SB 1076 is admirable and much needed. However, the Emergency Departments do not have the space or the manpower to monitor the homeless population every night. Doing this would take away the ability for our healthcare professionals to care for patients with urgent medical conditions.

There are more appropriate spaces for our homeless population to obtain a warm bed, food, and clothing without hindering or delaying the care of other community members.

Thank you,

Angela Graves