

Submitter: Cynthia Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4074

I am opposed to the staffing plan of 5:1 nursing ratio as proposed in HB 4074. I am extremely disappointed that our legislators are cowering to hospital administration and supporting this measure just for the sake of saving money for the for-profit side of healthcare. There is no other reason for this proposal, and it will have negative effects on nursing staff and patient health. I wonder if the legislators would rather have a nurse managing four patients or a nurse trying to manage five patients and unable to complete cares or spend time with patients because the hospital would like to save money.

The "support" statements for this measure are based on greed and the blatant lack of concern for patients whose nurses are expected to perform unrealistic care goals in the face of increasingly complex duties.

Our patients deserve the best attention we can give them, and our nurses deserve to not be continually forced to work in impossible circumstances. Public health and safety and nurse retention depend on lower ratios, and our lawmakers must recognize that those issues should be priority for anyone in public office.