

Submitter:

Grace Schoenlank

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4074

As a nurse working under HB2697, I deeply appreciate working on a unit with an approved staffing plan that follows a set of standards. The standards we follow make our work significantly safer, for both nurses and our patients. Nurses can do their jobs to support their patients' health when staffing levels are appropriate. The bill under current consideration will have a number of negative impacts, making our working conditions once again less safe by incentivizing (for increased profit, not for better patient care) higher nurse/patient ratios and concealing unsafe workloads. It will also decrease hospital penalties when hospitals fail to staff safely, resulting in the situation in which paying a fine is potentially cheaper than staffing safely. This roll-back is unacceptable. Nurses should not be put in a position to have to juggle unsafe workloads. In no world could that be considered a standard of care.