

**HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act**  
**Proponent Testimony by Jessie Stillwell**

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee.

My name is Jessie and I have worked in Nursing for the last 20 years. I work in Long Term Care or more commonly know as Nursing Homes and Assisted Livings.

Our ratios are Very different from hospital nursing ratios. In Longterm care there are usually 30-50 patients per 1 nurse. Yes, you heard that right! So please picture your wife, husband, mother, father, or even your child living in one of those facilities. What type of care do you think they would receive if the nurse caring for them has 49 other patients? Well I am here to tell ya from my own experience that we, nurses are usually only in your loved ones room about 5 minutes. Just long enough to give them their medicine and then on to the next patient.

If the Nursing field continues to put profit over safe nursing care and safe staffing ratios eventually nurses get too burnt out to work, start calling off, make numerous medication errors, give wrong medicines to your loved one, perform a wrong procedure on someone, miss unvoiced symptoms that a patient has because we are in too big of a rush due to having 50 patients to all give medicine to in a two hour window on top of helping them to the bathroom, bringing them food, warming up their food, refill their water, give them a blanket, or nurses just plain leave the profession.

Hospitals have ratios and so should Each and Every Nursing facility that exists.

By providing Safe Staffing ratios the policy will:

- Help prevent Death
- Help prevent long wait times for care
- Help prevent medication errors
- Help prevent unnecessary patient falls due to long wait times for care
- Help to provide good quality nursing care
- Help to maximize patient safety and nurse safety over profits
- Help maintain nurses at the bedside
- Help to prevent nurse burnout

Please pass HB285 for Safe Staffing ratios to help support the Nursing professions

Sincerely,  
Jessie Stillwell