

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Tyler Miles BSN, RN

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

I am writing to provide testimony in support of legislation addressing safe staffing for nurses. As a Neonatal ICU nurse, I have witnessed firsthand how inadequate staffing ratios negatively affect both patient outcomes and the well-being of healthcare professionals.

Safe staffing is not just a workplace issue—it is a public safety issue. Studies consistently show that proper nurse-to-patient ratios lead to fewer medical errors, reduced hospital readmissions, and improved patient satisfaction. Conversely, when nurses are overburdened, care suffers, and patients face unnecessary risks, including longer recovery times and increased complications.

The impact on nurses themselves is equally troubling. Chronic understaffing contributes to burnout, physical and mental health challenges, and a rising number of skilled professionals leaving the field altogether. At a time when the healthcare system is already under immense strain, we cannot afford to lose experienced nurses.

Investing in safe staffing is an investment in public health and our future. It ensures that patients receive the care they deserve and that nurses can perform their jobs safely and effectively. My patients are families whole worlds and safe staffing would allow me to give each baby and family the love they deserve. I urge you to prioritize this legislation to create safer environments for both patients and healthcare professionals across our state.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am happy to provide further information or share additional experiences if it would assist the committee.

Sincerely,

Tyler Miles BSN, RN
RCNIC Registered Nurse