

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Richard Pesce RN, CCRN

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

I write today to offer proponent testimony for House Bill 285. My name is Richard Pesce and I have been a nurse since 1999.

I have spent most of my career in a hospital that would mandate nurses to stay over for staffing crises. It was just recently that this very unsafe practice was terminated. Yet, I still find myself responding to situations where poor nurse staffing has led to patient decline. While too numerous to detail them all, one such situation involved a floor with all inexperienced RNs and too few of them to care for the patients. There was a charge nurse but no one that was able to mentor the inexperienced nurse when to alert the doctor for her decompensating patient. The nurse thought the patient was just sleeping and did not realize they were unconscious and had been for some time. By the time I got to the bedside the patient had had a massive stroke and was not able to be saved. This nurse had allowed the patient to sleep because they were busy with their 6 other patients, who could vocalize their needs.

I genuinely ask you, is this the care that you would want to receive? Now consider you don't tell anyone in the hospital about your status as a legislator, requesting VIP treatment. You or a loved one could easily find yourself in this same scenario.

I ask you to please pass House Bill 285.

Richard Pesce RN, CCRN