

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Deb Woide RNC-MNN, CCM, ICCE

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

I have been a Registered Nurse for over 35 years. Safe staffing is crucial to the safety of patients. If a Registered Nurse has 5 mothers post partum and 5 babies they have only 6 minutes each hour to asses, feed, diaper, draw blood work. Circumcise, medicate patients and document care. During Covid I watched as Emergency Room nurses ratio went up to 5 or 6 critical patients. I watched as ratios increased great nurses left the field. I invite legislators to go by your local hospital on the weekend. See the empty employee parking lots. On night shift many floors had only two novice nurses for 18 patients. Case Management Society recommends a ratio of 25 patients not an entire building on the weekend. Pediatric patients deserve safe school nurses not medication aids. Complex Pediatric patients are going home and school on ventilators, feeding tubes, IV medications and need qualified nursing staff.

Thank you

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