

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Kayla Morrison, RN

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

I am a Registered Nurse in the State of Ohio. I work for a Healthcare system that strives to provide the best and most efficient care for the patients that come into our facility. It creates a difficult obstacle to provide the care we strive for when we do not have the staff that is needed for those necessities. I have worked in environments that provided safe staffing and I have also worked in environments that did not. In the environments that did not provide safe staffing, the patients are the ones that ultimately suffered. These situations made me fearful for not only my license, but more so for the patients that could be effected by staffing ratios.

In the event that you're faced with unsafe staffing ratios, room for errors increase, patients do not receive the care they should receive, and the increase for fatality could increase due to lack of observation or care provided for patients related to increased ratios.

I work in a neurology unit, where TIME is brain. If a patient experiences a neurological change and you are overloaded with patients, it could very well lead these patients to more damage than if these changes were recognized in a timely manner. Creating a higher patient ratio will only delay these patients of the urgent care that is needed. Delay of care could also result in death or permanent neurological deficits.

In a hospital setting it is very common for visitors and patients to expect prompt care, as they should, but by not creating safe staffing ratios it will prevent patient from receiving the things they deserve that could potentially change their entire life.

To put it in a more personal aspect, if ratios are increased and your loved ones are in need of immediate care or even basic care needs, you would expect those things to be carried out in a timely manner. If they are not, you could potentially become angry because simple needs or life saving measures could be on delay due to unsafe staffing.

Hospital administration and Ohio Legislatures do not see the immense need for safe staffing, because they are not in the forefront providing care to our vulnerable patients. It's saddening not only for nursing staff, but more so for the patients who deserve so much more.

Many nurses have left the bedside due to unsafe staffing, and the problem will continue to rise if action is not taken.

I highly urge you to support HB285 to create a safer work environment for healthcare professionals and the patients we provide care to ensure the well-being of the community among us.

I am a nurse dedicated to ensuring a safe and supportive work environment to our community, your loved ones, and my fellow healthcare providers.

I hope that you think of the community that needs adequate healthcare, such as, your family members, when considering the decision that can impact so many and ultimately can result in life or death.

Thank you for your time on this crucial subject.

A Concerned Nurse,
Kayla Morrison