

HB 285 – Nurse Workforce & Safe Patient Care Act
Proponent Testimony by Kristine Novotney, RN BSN CCRN

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

I wanted to write to you about House Bill 285, Safe Staffing, to detail what is happening in our Ohio hospitals daily. I work as a rapid response nurse at a large hospital system in Ohio. My team of critical care nurses respond to emergencies through out our hospital system. The most prevalent reason for patient decline and bad outcomes, is poor staffing. The nurses have more patients than they can safely care for. The patients are sicker than they were 38 years ago when I first started as a nurse.

We all have family that we love and care about. Would you be alright if your family member was one of the patients that did not get the care and attention from the nurse that they needed? I see this happen everyday I work. It is not because the nursing staff doesn't care about the patients. There are just not enough nurses staffed to meet the needs of the patients. Yesterday I was called to a rapid response on a patient who had gotten out of bed without assistance on a medical floor, fallen and hit his head. The medical floor was short staffed, the nurse did not get to him in time because she was with another sick patient. He was on blood thinners, and now has a huge head bleed. He will never wake up from his catastrophic brain damage. The nurse was crying and blaming herself for something that is out of her control. She can't be two places at once. If the legislator passes House Bill 285 it will help our loved ones receive safer care. Please vote yes to pass this bill.

Kristine Novotney RN BSN CCRN