

**Comment on HB 5902 An act Concerning Hospital Staffing and Patient
Access to Deep Sedation and Generalized Anesthesia**

By Lisa D'Abrosca, RN

Vice President AFT Local 5049

Good afternoon Sen. Handley, Rep. Sayers, members of the public health committee. My name is Lisa D'Abrosca and I'm here to ask for your support on HB 5902. I'm a registered nurse and I'm also the Vice President of the nurses union at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London. I practice on a half med-surg-oncology, half hospice unit. More specifically, I take care of two types of patients: those that have had surgery due to cancer and those less fortunate who are actively dying of cancer, and often times breathe their last on my watch.

To do the job that nurses do every day on this unit, it takes a nurse that is going to be by a patient's bedside to explain everything and hold their hand through what just may be their darkest hour. However, more than half of the time I come to work, I feel that I cannot be that nurse. Every other time I come to work, I feel that I cannot be that nurse. The reason why: staffing—plain and simple. I cannot hold the hand of a dying patient, and I cannot take the time to fully explain things to a post-operative patient because I, along with my fellow nurses are too busy with other patients to be able to have adequate amount of time to spend with these people.

HB5902 is a light at the end of the tunnel to both myself and my fellow nurses. This bill proposes a major movement in the much desired direction of safe staffing. This bill goes above and beyond the idea of simple staffing ratios. It speaks to a committee, comprised of no less than 50% of actual staff nurses to create and implement a staffing plan. This plan will be considered safe not only by administrators, but by the individuals actually caring for the patient. I implore you all to support this bill. It is not only the strongest hope that we have as nurse, but you have as patients. I want you to picture you or your loved one in a hospital bed. I want you to picture your nurse overwhelmed because of inadequate staffing. Do you want this nurse to be taking care of the amount of patients that an administrator wants him/her to take care of? Or would you want this nurse to take care of the amount of patients that he or she feels able to take care of? HB 5902 will give staff nurses a major part in planning safe staffing. Staffing that will be not only safe for the nurse, but safe for the patient.

Thank you all for your time and interest in this bill