



TESTIMONY OF

**John Capobianco, Vice President for Operations and Chief of Nursing
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Friday, March 15, 2013

SB 968, AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF NURSE STAFFING LEVELS

The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning SB 968, An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels.

This bill would require hospitals to submit to the Department of Public Health annual reports on prospective nurse staffing plans and quarterly reports of actual daily nurse staffing levels by numerical staff-to-patient ratios for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and registered nurses' aides as defined in Section 20-102aa of the Connecticut General Statutes.

CHH opposes SB 968 because we feel it would have no meaningful effect on the continuous delivery of safe, quality care, but it would impose an unnecessary administrative burden.

The reporting that would be mandated by SB 968, focused solely on ratio of staff to patients, would not address what I believe are more critical factors impacting workload and intensity of care. These factors include age, severity of illness, cognitive and functional status, weight, complexity of procedures and medications and risk of skin breakdown to name a few. Additionally, there are also several staff factors including years of experience, educational preparation, licensure and experience with a particular patient care area i.e. oncology.

The above elements are not captured, nor accounted for, simply by counting heads.

Lastly, patient throughput, discharges, transfer and admissions, are very time consuming and of higher intensity. These component parts of care delivery and patient's care experience would not be captured by taking a daily snapshot of patient to staff ratios. We adjust our staffing shift to shift and intra shift based upon all the various factors mentioned in this testimony.



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In closing, I believe SB 968 will not provide meaningful, comparative data to drive positive patient care outcomes or inform the public about the quality of care delivery from hospital to hospital. In fact, this tedious administrative burden levied by SB 968 will, in fact, detract resources away from patient care.

Thank you for considering this testimony opposing SB 968.

Sincerely,

John J. Capobianco
Vice President Of Operations and Chief Nursing Officer