

Testimony of Carol Grant RN
In Support of SB 968
An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels
Public Health Committee
March 15, 2013

My name is Carol Grant, I have worked in the health care field since 1977, first as a nurse's aide and then as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). I have worked at Danbury Hospital since 1984 in various capacities, until I became a registered nurse in 2004. I am writing to ask the Public Health Committee to support SB 968.

I chose to become a registered nurse because I saw how they made a difference in peoples' lives. I love what I do, but because of changes in staffing levels, I have to set priorities that do not allow me to give the care I was trained to give. It is not just RNs that are needed; it is ancillary staff, from nurses' aides to unit coordinators.

The hospital has to provide care at a cost, what do they spend their money on? This is the information that all who need health care should be able to access. Reporting staffing levels will give the public the facts they need to make a decision on what hospital they want to go to.

The staffing laws in California and now other states, have shown that there are better outcomes with better staffing levels, such as fewer infection rates, patient falls and other reportable complications. Lower nurse to patient ratios lead to less burn out and less turnover, which saves money.

Staffing is a challenge with any hospital, but when it comes down to human life, health and wellness, there is a balance between providing cost effective care, and care that patients deserve. Good staffing levels provide the ability to give emotional support and teach patients adequately to avoid readmissions. With the new reimbursement laws, hospitals will not be reimbursed for readmissions within thirty days.

Reporting staffing levels will make an equal playing field with all hospitals in Connecticut. It will improve patient care in all of Connecticut. Thank you for considering my testimony, I am asking you to please vote for SB 968, An Act Concerning Reports on Nurse Staffing Levels. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Grant, RN
12 Avery Road
New Milford, CT 06776

