



**TESTIMONY OF  
MARY BYLONE**  
*Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer*  
*The William W. Backus Hospital*  
**SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, March 15, 2013**

**Re: Opposition to SB 968, “An Act Concerning Reports Of Nurse Staffing Levels”**

Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns about SB 968, “An Act Concerning Reports Of Nurse Staffing Levels,” and state my reasons to urge its rejection.

SB 968 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.

Unfortunately, this would do little to ensure safe and competent care or correlate to improving patient outcomes. Even in the states where ratios have been mandated, they have yet to uncover a positive impact on patient achieving their optimal outcomes.

Our complex patient populations have needs which are met when matched with qualified staff who possess particular skills. A numerical ratio is, essentially, a head count; it cannot ensure that the staff being counted bring the skills to care for any particular patient.

If exceptional patient care were only a numbers game, it would very easy to plan and staff to meet all our patients’ needs. It is not that simple. Appropriate staffing involves matching nurse competencies to patient needs. And daily reporting of the numbers will not and cannot provide that information. Moreover, it will consume valuable nursing time to provide this data, but it will not turn the resulting data into information for decision-making in any manner.

For these reasons, I oppose SB 968 and request we focus on making sure patients have access to competent care in all settings and look for outcomes as a measure of success.

Thank you for consideration of my position.