



Testimony of  
**Melodie Peters, President**  
AFT Connecticut  
Public Health Committee  
March 13, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Melodie Peters and I am President of AFT Connecticut, a union of nearly 29,000 members, many of which are healthcare workers. In fact, we represent more acute care hospitals and their nurses and healthcare workers than any other collective bargaining agent.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 968 An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels.

As an organization representing the above healthcare workers, we have been advocating for accountability in nursing staffing levels for years without success. This result, as we have been told, is due to a number of factors including a difficulty determining staff to nurse ratios based on acuity and being able to accurately define acuity. Also, I believe the intense push back from those affected institutions have delayed any action.

This bill simply asks hospitals to report annually to the Department of Public Health a prospective nurse staffing plan and quarterly a count of its daily nurse staffing levels for each patient care unit, the number of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses Aides providing direct care and the ratio of patient to such.

We would also like to suggest adding that hospitals post this information on their websites in addition to reporting to the Department of Public Health as this level of transparency becomes good for consumers.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to public health.

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