



Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47 Local 5047
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Testimony of
Ailie Montague R.N.
Danbury Nurses' Union, Unit #47 AFT Local 5047
In support of Raised HB5384
An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing levels
March 5, 2014

I am a nurse at Danbury Hospital and I am writing to support H.B. 5384, an act concerning reports of nurse staffing levels. I support Transparency in Nursing because working short staffed directly impacts patient outcomes.

Without proper staffing patient safety is at risk. Preventable occurrences such as falls, pressure ulcers and self injury are more likely to occur when there are not enough staff members. Inadequate staffing prevents staff from performing the proper observation of patients which could lead to injury. Patient education becomes lacking or nonexistent when staff does not have enough time. This places patients at risk when they are discharged and leads to re-admissions. Of course a lack of staffing has a direct impact on patient comfort and satisfaction as there is less time to provide mental and spiritual support. Lack of staffing causes the care we provide to become more task oriented and makes the experience less human.

For patients, effects of short staffing could include injury, poor recovery, or no recovery. For staff, the effects of short staffing could increase risk of physical injury in the workplace, lack of satisfaction with our positions, and disappointment that we are unable to give the kind of care we want to.

I love being an RN. I value all the staff I work with and I know that I cannot be a nurse without the support they provide. When I am working without proper staffing I am concerned for my patients safety and disappointed that I am not given the support I need to provide great care for my patients.

I feel mandatory reporting out staffing levels will help me give quality patient care.

Sincerely,

Ailie Montague, R.N.
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