



Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47 Local 5047  
AFT-CT, AFT Healthcare, AFL- CIO  
18 Great Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 748-4774  
FAX (203) 748-2988 E-mail [aft5047unit47@gmail.com](mailto:aft5047unit47@gmail.com)  
<http://ct.aft.org/unit47>

Testimony of  
Heather Evanska, RN  
Danbury Nurses' Union, Unit #47 AFT Local 5047  
In support of Raised HB5384  
An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing levels  
March 5, 2014

Dear Public Health Committee,

**My name is Heather Evanska and I work in Family Birth Center (FBC), at Danbury Hospital. I have been a Registered Nurse since 2005. I am writing to support the H.B. 5384, An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels.**

**My concerns have to do with poor staffing for the Family Birth Center. Our unit was one of the hardest hit when layoffs happened in July of 2012. We lost all of our Licensed Practical Nurses' who worked in the nursery. Now we have to staff the nursery with a Registered Nurse, which raises the nurse to patient ratio on the Maternity Floor and in Labor and Delivery.**

**I know the management hopes to use more "rooming in" in order to close the nursery at designated times. However, I'm not convinced this is the answer as we have a strong population of new mothers who utilize the nursery after delivery. We also lost nurses in both L&D and Maternity which have not been replaced. There are many full time positions that have not been filled and there is a large amount of hours still available in both areas currently being covered by temporary nurses.**

**We need adequate and appropriate staffing in the Nursery, on the Maternity Floor and in Labor and Delivery. We need to replace core nursing staff at the Family Birth Center. Our patients have many options for child birth in our area. This bill will help them choose the high quality care they deserve.**

Sincerely,

Heather Evanska  
27 Acre Drive  
Danbury, CT 06811