



Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47 Local 5047
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Testimony of
Ann Marie Vogt, R.N., **BSN, RNC-MNN**
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 Registered Nurse and I have worked at Danbury Hospital for the past nineteen years. I am writing to support H.B. 5384, An Act concerning reports of Nurse staffing levels. I support Transparency in nursing.

I am proud that Governor Rell signed legislation in May, 2008 that required hospitals to establish staffing plans but sadly, unless hospitals are required to report their staffing levels to the DPH website, improvement in safe staffing will not be achieved. Patients and family members might be aware at the moment of their admission how poorly staffed a unit may be, but during their time with us they are most vulnerable and unable to change the situation. I believe that if hospital staffing is transparent, then the public will be able to use the information to advocate for safe staffing.

Hospital care is fragmented. Nurses are working overtime, without meal breaks and very often without administrative support. On the occasion when the census may be low, nurses use this time to complete ongoing competencies and other required activities to maintain current within our specialty. It is very common on the Maternity and Labor and Delivery Unit to not have adequate staffing and it is during these times that nurses become injured and patients experience poor outcomes. Please consider my request to move this staffing bill through committee so that we can advance our professional mission to care for our patients safely.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Vogt, R.N., **BSN, RNC-MNN**
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