

STAMFORD HOSPITAL SB5384
TESTIMONY OF
STAMFORD HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 4, 2014

SB538 An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels

Stamford Hospital (SH) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB5384, An Act Concerning Reports Of Nurse Staffing Levels.

SB 5384 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 each unit, for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and registered nurses' aides as defined in Section 20-102aa of the Connecticut General Statutes. The bill also requires hospitals to report the method used to determine and adjust direct patient care staffing levels.

Stamford Hospital opposes HB 5384 because it would impose an unnecessary administrative burden with no meaningful effect on our ability to provide high quality patient care.

Stamford Hospital is committed to achieving optimal patient outcomes. We believe that a numerical staff-to-patient ratio does not take into account the wide range of factors that we use to make staffing decisions, such as the severity and urgency of our patients' condition, age, cognitive and functional ability, scheduled procedures and stage of recovery. Also considered are licensure, educational preparation, skill level, experience, tenure on a patient unit and level of experience with a particular type of patient care, to name several.

Stamford Hospital does not believe that SB 5384 will accomplish meaningful patient care quality goals. We believe the public would be better served through initiatives directed toward achieving positive patient outcomes. We urge this committee to support initiatives that contribute to adequate resources for the delivery of quality care rather than the imposition of an unnecessary administrative burden that will draw upon the precious time of staff members focused on patient care. We urge you to oppose SB 5384. Thank you for consideration of our position.