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AFT Healthcare 

Testimony of
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Treasurer, Lawrence & Memorial Registered Nurses Union, AFT Local 5051, AFL-CIO

Public Health Committee Hearing
February 23, 2015

SB 855 AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF NURSE STAFFING LEVELS

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dale Cunningham and I have been a Registered Nurse at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital since 1990. I am a staff nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and an active member and Treasurer of AFT Local 5049, the union representing Registered Nurses at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

We are seeking to enhance current statute that requires the hospital to have a staffing committee and provide the state with the adequate staffing plan. SB 885 requires disclosure of the actual staffing levels to the public we serve.

This data is being gathered presently according to hospital staffing plans provide to the state. We seek this data to be displayed on their websites that are already in place. This will not incur any further administrative burden or cost because these venues are already in place. We seek this data to be displayed because we feel this will encourage our employers to provide care with appropriate staffing levels so our patients and community will be provided with the excellence of care afforded to them.

We know that our patients are educated, and know what is required to ensure they will be provided with appropriate patient care. Patients and families frequently ask their care providers how many patients they are caring for that day. Patients seeking services ahead of time such as Maternity and elective procedures, request information on staffing levels and ratio of patients to classifications of care providers. If our hospitals posted this information this shows full disclosure to ensure our public being provided pertinent information to make informed decisions on where to seek their healthcare.

I ask you to support SB 855. Thank you.