Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47 Local 5047
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Testimony of
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Danbury Nurses' Union, Unit #47 AFT Local 5047
In support of Raised S. B. 855
An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing levels
February 23, 2015

I am a nurse at Danbury hospital since 2007. I am writing to support S. B. 855, An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing levels. I support mandatory reporting of staffing levels in nursing because it affects patient care.

We are starting to have 7 patients each. The patients coming in are sicker now than in the past. They want more information about what is happening to them and their course of treatment. With 6 or 7 patients each we can barely give them the physical care, medication and treatments that they require. Even charting electronically takes up a great deal of our time. There are times we feel that we spend more time documenting patient care on the computer than we do with our patients. There is no time to spend with the patient or the patient's family members to answer questions or simply reassure them.

Our nurse's aides have up to 10 patients. Aides have been floated to other floors or sent home, leaving us with no one to answer call bells or bed alarms in a timely manner. Aides can't take care of that many patients so the nurses end up doing non-medical tasks. Consequently many patients feel as though we don't care. I dislike calling patients consumers but that is the reality. With 6 patients each, these consumers are not getting the quality health care they deserve.

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