



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 S. B. 855
An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing levels
February 23, 2015

I am a Registered Nurse and I have worked at Danbury Hospital for the past twenty years. I am writing to support S. B. 855, 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.

I was disappointed when a staffing transparency bill did not pass last year. I submitted testimony in support of that staffing transparency bill. Unfortunately, the situation has not improved. Hospital care continues to be 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 be 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. At times over the past two months, there has not been a Labor & Delivery Technician to help with Caesarian Sections on the week end. The Operating Room Technician must come to assist leaving the O.R. without a surgical technician for emergency cases.

Please consider my request to move S.B. 855 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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