Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Submitted to the Public Health Committee

February 23, 2015

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee.

The Connecticut AFL-CIO on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women all across this great state support:

Raised SB. No. 855 - An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels

We need to ask ourselves why this concept isn't in statute already? With all the media attention on infectious diseases and how quickly they can be transmitted shouldn't we have these staffing numbers? This lack of public reporting on the accurate ratio level of services provided by nurses and other hospital staff is exactly why this legislation is necessary. This type of reporting is imperative to accurately determine safe staffing levels for hospitals to ensure proper care for its patients.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Pelletier

Executive Secretary Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO