



Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47 Local 5047  
AFT-CT, AFT Healthcare, AFL- CIO  
18 Great Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06810 (203) 748-4774  
FAX (203) 748-2988 E-mail [aft5047unit47@gmail.com](mailto:aft5047unit47@gmail.com)  
<http://ct.aft.org/unit47>

Testimony of  
Mary Kearney, RN  
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 have been a Registered Nurse at Danbury Hospital since 2001. I am writing to support S. B. 855, An Act Concerning Reports of Nurse Staffing Levels. I support reporting staffing ratios in nursing because I care about the patients and their newborn babies that I care for as I assess, educate, and promote bonding for the mother and baby.

My favorite role as a nurse is to help facilitate bonding and attachment of mother and child. It is hard to safely provide the best care to the patients and their newborns when we are chronically short staffed. It feels like management and the hospital does not care about these new families. I believe my role is very important in life and helps establish a good foundation for these new families that I care for. When we work chronically short staffed I cannot always help people to the bathroom.

I cannot always help people breast feed their newborn. I cannot always give medication including pain medication in a timely fashion. I want to be the best nurse that I can be to all my patients, rich or poor, black or white. It is so incredibly stressful and difficult to provide the best care when there is not enough staff.

When we ask for help, the hospital tells us that we are appropriately staffed and have enough nurses. It is frustrating and it makes me sad to think that the administrators are more concerned about the hospital's bottom line than making sure these newborns and new families have a good start. This needs to stop. We need a positive change with appropriate staffing levels on all shifts.

Sincerely,

Mary Kearney, R. N.  
6 Hiawatha Trail  
Shelton, CT 06484