



SEIUHealthcare
United for Quality Care

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Before the Public Health Committee

*In Support of SB 1030 AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES
with changes.*

Good afternoon Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Patricia Hansen, I have been in the Healthcare field for over thirty years. I have worked as a CNA, Scheduler, Office manager and I am currently an excellent LPN. The reason I am an excellent nurse is because I work with a group of great CNAs.

I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 1030 with some changes. Specifically, in Section 13, the LPN portion of care hours should be .75 and the RN portion of care hours should be .54 of the 4.1 care hours that residents will receive. LPN's and CNA's do more direct care than RN's and so we should have a higher ratio then them.

We have elderly in Nursing homes living longer and their needs change on a daily basis. I find it very inhumane for our residents. I am a patient advocate first and foremost. At any given time, a CNA can have as many as 12 residents at a time, not to mention that all 12 can be fall risks, not able to feed themselves, they need to be turned and repositioned and toileted every two hours. This does not even include their showers and grooming so the resident can look and feel decent and hopeful and will have the will to continue to thrive. Healthcare workers have become Social Workers, Mental Health workers and Hospice care to the ones dying without family because we don't want them to die alone. Not to mention more so with the Covid. We have joined hands and circled the dying with prayers as their Last Rites. Yes, unless you work it firsthand you will never know what it is like. Senate Bill 1030 is a good first step and mandates the right rations, but I am begging all of you to listen to the staff that do the hands-on care and put more money into staffing, because without funding, we will not be able to make these ratios work. What you don't see in long term care is the elderly that helped build this country and ended up like this at no fault of their own. They once had houses to live in and had to exhaust their assets to have a roof over their heads in long term care.

Staffing needs should be looked at yearly as the care and needs of the residents change. After this last year, Nursing Home staff are mentally and physically drained. Mandating twelve hour shifts is NOT the answer to staffing problems. Sometimes we do 12 hours or more in a shift because our staffing levels are so low. Making it a law is NOT the answer. It will make more of us tired.

CNAs are the eyes, the ears and back bone of any facility and it is about time they are recognized for their jobs. You may think that they are all overpaid, but you have no idea how much they are underpaid. Nurses also are overwhelmed as the needs change on a day-to-day basis. No day is ever the same. A nurse in long-term/Rehab can have as many as 31 residents in a shift. Ask, yourselves is this humane? Absolutely not! They are someone's family member, and they deserve better.

The government will give citations to any facility for wrong doings and they will be fined etc. but there are no penalties in this bill for staffing violations. Who do we - the staff, who do all the hands-on care - give citations to for being understaffed! This bill needs penalties for staffing level violations and employee access to PPE. Elderly lives matter and we are their advocates. Please pass this bill with the suggested changes and do right for these residents. Thank you for your time.