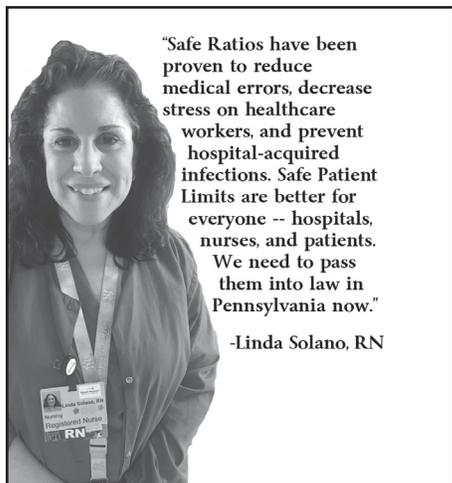


The Hospital STAFFING CRISIS



"Safe Ratios have been proven to reduce medical errors, decrease stress on healthcare workers, and prevent hospital-acquired infections. Safe Patient Limits are better for everyone -- hospitals, nurses, and patients. We need to pass them into law in Pennsylvania now."

-Linda Solano, RN

Pennsylvania is in a patient safety crisis. Unprecedented levels of short-staffing are leading nurses to leave the profession in record numbers, and patients are suffering. In hospitals, safe patient limits would dramatically improve bedside care:

- Safe Patient Limits could prevent the deaths of 1 in 10 surgical patients.¹
- Each additional patient assigned to a nurse increases the risk of patient death by 7%. Many nurses are now two to four patients over a safe nurse-to-patient ratio.

People are dying because of short staffing.

A recent survey of 1,000 bedside nurses across Pennsylvania found²:

- 94% say their facility does not have enough nursing staff.
- 95% have been unable to provide the best care as a result.
- 84% said high turnover is a problem where they work.



Legislators must pass bipartisan safe patient limit laws for PA Hospitals, which 90% of nurses want.

It's time to end the crisis and improve care for all Pennsylvanians.

Solution:



YES! Safe Patient Limits save lives and improve care in our communities.

We are asking legislators to co-sponsor House Bill 867 sponsored by Rep. Gene DiGirolamo and Senate Bill 450 sponsored Sen. Maria Collett RN that would establish safe patient limits in Pennsylvania Hospitals.



NO! Staffing committees are false solutions bedside nurses know will not fix the crisis.

We are asking legislators to oppose staffing committees legislation, which would weaken safe staffing in Pennsylvania. With committees, nurses can only make non-binding suggestions, which results in a lot of talk but no action.

¹<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12387650>

²<http://nursesofpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Nurses-of-Pa-Patient-Care-Crisis-Report.pdf>



The Nursing Home STAFFING CRISIS

Because of short staffing, nursing home caregivers are leaving the bedside in droves and providers are struggling to recruit and retain new employees.

Caregivers are working double shifts and providers are relying more and more on temporary agency staff. Every day, caregivers wonder when they will leave the bedside for less stressful work.

These issues are putting our most vulnerable citizens at risk.

Without a strong workforce, the men and women being cared for in nursing homes across the state are not getting the care they deserve.

And it's all happening at a time when Pennsylvania is transitioning to Managed Care and requiring higher care standards. Without improved staffing standards, Pennsylvania can not successfully make this transition.

"Nursing homes can't keep relying on caregivers like me to work overtime and double shifts. Regulations need to change so we can provide the best care to our residents. They're counting on us."

-Yetta Timothy, CNA



NURSES OF PENNSYLVANIA
United for Quality Patient Care

That's why caregivers across the state are coming together to demand changes to Nursing Home Regulations, which haven't been updated in over a decade.

It's time to end the crisis and improve care for our seniors.

1 Increase the State Staffing Standard to 4.1 Hours of Care.

Current regulations require a minimum of only 2.7 hours of care for each resident per day.

Overwhelming research evidence shows that higher nurse staffing levels are associated with better nursing home care. Research studies and experts show the need for a minimum of 4.1 total nursing hours per resident day, including 2.8 to 3.6 hours of nurse aide care per resident day depending on resident characteristics.

➔ Urge the Department of Health to increase the minimum staffing standard to 4.1 hours of care.

2 Increased Funding Goes to the Bedside.

To meet the demand for improved staffing, the Commonwealth will have to increase funding for nursing home care. Increased funding should include policies and oversight that make sure it reaches direct care providers.

➔ Urge Governor Wolf to assure that increased funding for nursing homes be dedicated to hiring more staff, increasing wages, providing affordable health care, and enhanced training for caregivers to improve care.

4.1 for **EVERYONE**
It's time to improve nursing home staffing



Nurses of Pennsylvania

We are a grassroots movement of nurses united for patient safety and better quality care.

We were formed in May 2017 by 80 nurses in Pittsburgh and Scranton. Since then 15,000 nurses have taken action with us in our movement for safe patient limits legislation.

We are in every county, every house and senate district, and every corner of this state. An average of 65 people in all 203 House Districts and 102 people in all 50 Senate Districts have taken part in our movement for safe patient limits.

We are union and non-union nurses. *(10% union, 90% non-union)*

We are bipartisan. *(24% Republican, 29% Democrat, 47% Independent)*

Nurses are taking our patient advocacy to the legislature.

Since we started in 2017, over 11,000 nurses have signed our petition for safe patient limits. We have made over 2,000 calls to our legislators and held over 300 meetings with legislators, and we're just getting started!

Nurses are speaking out for our patients and our profession.

"When patients think of a nurse, they think of someone that will be taking care of them to assist them in getting better or at least feeling better. We owe them the best possible care we are capable of giving, and that means standing up for them not just inside the medical facility but here fighting for safe patient limits"

- Eileen Kelly RN, Sheffield

"The question is: if this was you or your family member would you want them to get the proper care they need? Because the only way to do that is to pass safe patient limits legislation."

- Debbie Vandover RN, York

"We, as nurses, are the holders of the sick and the dying, the helpless, or those who may simply have lost hope. We need safe patient limits now."

- Denelle Weller RN, State College

STAY CONNECTED:



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