



MINNESOTA TEAMSTERS PUBLIC & LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEES' UNION, LOCAL NO. 320, STATE OF MINNESOTA



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International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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March 5, 2025

Chair Jennifer McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee

Subject: Support the Quality Patient Care Act (HF2289/SF2775) for Safe Nurse Staffing

Madame Chair McEwen,

Teamsters Local 320 urges you and your colleagues to support the **Quality Patient Care Act (HF2289/SF2775)** to ensure safe, enforceable nurse-to-patient ratios that protect both patients and healthcare professionals including retaliation against Certified Nursing Assistants. As hospitals prioritize profits over patient-centered care, nurses are increasingly overburdened leading to preventable medical errors, burnout, and declining patient outcomes.

Safe staffing ratios are critical to:

- Protecting Patients and Improving Outcomes – Overworked nurses cannot provide the level of care patients deserve. Safe ratios reduce medical errors, complications, and readmissions.
- Enhancing Patient Safety – Research shows that understaffed hospitals have higher patient mortality rates. Ensuring manageable workloads saves lives.
- Supporting Nurses' Well-being – Excessive patient loads lead to burnout, moral injury, and high turnover, worsening the nursing shortage. Safe staffing keeps experienced nurses at the bedside.
- Reducing Workplace Violence – Chronic understaffing contributes to violence against nurses, making hospitals unsafe for staff and patients alike.
- Addressing Nurse Turnover – Many nurses are leaving the profession due to poor staffing, further straining the healthcare system and increasing recruitment costs.

Unfortunately, hospitals continue to resist enforceable staffing standards, opting to maximize profits while patient care suffers. Without legislative action, this crisis will only worsen, leading to increased healthcare costs, declining patient satisfaction, and a further exodus of skilled nurses from the profession.

Teamsters Local 320 urges you to act now by setting enforceable nurse-to-patient ratios to guarantee safe and effective care, defending patient and nurse safety by strengthening staffing protections, implementing acuity-based staffing models to assign nurses based on patient needs, and holding hospitals accountable to prioritize patient care over financial gains.

We thank you in anticipation of your support!

In solidarity,
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 320


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