

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

U.S Senator for Ohio

The Honorable J.D. Vance

U.S Senator for Ohio

My name is Avery Tubbs. I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing. I am set to graduate at the beginning of May and plan to continue my education to get my BSN. I wanted to reach out and discuss an issue in healthcare that I have become aware of during school.

Something I feel will greatly affect me as I move into the workforce is safe staffing ratios. There are many times that nurses are expected to care for an amount of patients that exceeds their capabilities of providing them with safe care. Currently, in Ohio, there is not a limit on the number of patients one nurse can care for at a time. Each hospital is able to establish a minimum nurse to patient ratio of their choosing. This opens the door for unsafe situations and for nurses to become overburdened with patient care. This can lead to an increase in errors and a decrease in connection and personalized care.

This being said, I would like to support the Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2021. This would ensure that patients are getting appropriate care where their nurse will not be too caught up caring for other patients. It creates a safe nurse to patient ratio and allows for timely and efficient care. It has been shown that California, the only state in the U.S to have a set nurse to patient ratio, has higher nurse retention rates as well as an increase in positive patient outcomes. This also takes into account the type of care the patient would need and give a safer environment for those that are high acuity.

I encourage you to push for this bill as it is referred to the Committee of Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. I appreciate your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Avery M. Tubbs, Student RN