

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Robert E. Latta  
U.S. House Representative for Ohio

The Honorable J.D. Vance  
U.S. Senator for Ohio

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear Members of Congress:

My name is Rebecca Patricia Norman and I am student nurse at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I will be graduating soon on May 05, 2023 with my RN Diploma and will be taking my NCLEX soon after graduation. I would like to talk to you about having safe patient to nurse ratios.

I think it is important to have set patient to nurse ratios that hospitals have to follow for safety of the nurse and patient. When nurses have high patient to nurse ratios, mistakes are more likely to happen. It is not safe for nurses to have high patient to nurse ratios. I do think this should be unit specific. I think it's important that the nurse to patient ratio should be based off of the patient's level of acuity and the floor the patient is on.

I am aware that there is legislation in place like the H.R. 3165- Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2021. This is a good step for better legislation, but what are we doing to enforce better and safer patient to nurse ratios? I know that the Department of Health and Human Services may impose civil monetary penalties for hospitals that violate the ratio requirements, but how are these hospitals being monitored and are the hospitals mandated to keep their numbers of patient to nurse ratio and submit them to an agency? How are the patient to nurse ratios monitored and enforced?

I am writing this to seek information on how we are enforcing the patient to nurse ratios. I would like to know the standard patient to nurse ratios on different level of acuity floors. I would also like to know the punishment for hospitals that go against the patient to nurse ratios. Also, how would you punish a nurse that is taking care of patients that has been told that she is to take care of patients not in safe patient to nurse ratios? Would the nurse be punished if her administration asks her to take a patient care load that is not considered safe in this Act?

Please consider looking over this letter and putting into effect legislation that protects nurses from unsafe patient to nurse ratios. I think it is important that nurses are protected and know the laws for their safety.

Thank You,

Rebecca Patricia Norman  
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