

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator

Dear Senator Brown,

My name is Madison Taylor, and I am a nursing student at the Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I am currently in their RN diploma program, and I am set to graduate on May 3rd of this year. I am currently seeking employment at Firelands Regional Medical Center as a staff nurse after graduation and There is one thing about the nursing job that concerns me. I worry about high and unsafe nurse-to-patient ratios, and I am writing to you to today to discuss this problem and bring up a possible solution.

Currently in Ohio as well as most other states, there is no legislation for minimum nurse-to-patient ratios. California is the only state that has a mandated nurse-to-patient ratio, and it has shown to be quite beneficial. Back in January of 2004, California State legislators implemented a 1:6 nurse-to-patient ratio which soon after became a 1:5 ratio. According to an article entitled *The impact of California's staffing mandate and the economic recession on registered nurse staffing levels: A longitudinal analysis*, "research has repeatedly shown that adequate nurse staffing is associated with critical patient outcomes, including mortality, failure to rescue, other adverse events, and length of stay" (Dierkes et. Al, 2021). Not only does a mandated ratio help improve patient outcomes, but it also helps reduce the cost of near misses and adverse events that could be avoided by having adequate staffing levels. A few more states such as Massachusetts and Illinois are looking into implementing mandated nurse-to-patient ratios and I believe that it could be beneficial to Ohio too. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Madison Taylor

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Dierkes, A., Do, D., Morin, H., Rochman, M., Sloane, D., & McHugh, M. (2022). The impact of California's staffing mandate and the economic recession on registered nurse staffing levels: A longitudinal analysis. *Nursing outlook*, 70(2), 219–227.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2021.09.007>

