

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Kellie Deeter  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative Deeter,

My name is Karli Schnellinger, and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I am writing to you today to ask for your support in advocating for a legislation that would mandate safe staffing and nurse-to-patient ratios across hospitals in Ohio. As a student nurse who will be entering the workforce soon, I have witnessed firsthand how unsafe patient-to-nurse ratios can negatively impact not only the care for our patients, but also the well-being of the nursing staff.

Studies have shown that inadequate nurse staffing contributes to increased patient complications, including but not limited to, medication errors, longer hospital stays, and unfortunately higher mortality rates. Increased nurse-to-patient ratios causes nurses to prioritize their patients, which gives them less time spent with each patient, and therefore leading to fewer opportunities to address potential problems before they become serious. This leads to poorer patient outcomes for patients, and can place extreme stress on nursing staff, which can contribute to burnout and high turnover rates.

Several states have already implemented staff nurse-to-patient ratios, and they have shown that it helps to improve several different aspects of hospital care. Research from these states, shows that these types of measures improve patient outcomes and nurse retention. Hospitals with enforced staffing ratios reported fewer patient safety incidents and higher level of job satisfaction among nurses. These outcomes highlight the potential benefits of implementing a similar approach in Ohio, which could improve not only the safety of our patients, but also the long-term sustainability of our healthcare workers. The patients that come to the hospital deserve to receive adequate care in a timely matter, which is typically not the case in times where the nurse-to-patient ratio is increased.

I urge you to please consider supporting a legislation that enforces safe nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals and healthcare facilities across the state that would have several benefits not only for the hospital staffs, but also for the patients as well. Ensuring that nurses have manageable workloads is essential to providing high-quality care, reducing burnout, and improving patient outcomes. By advocating for this legislation, you will be making a significant impact not only on the healthcare system and our patients, but also on those professionals who dedicate their lives daily to caring for others.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further with you. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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