

Caitlin Gresh  
530 East Fifth Street  
Port Clinton, OH 43452

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Senator Theresa Gavarone  
Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, First Floor, Room 138  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: (614) 466-8060  
Email: gavarone@ohiosenate.gov

Dear Senator Gavarone,

I am writing to you as a nursing student and nurse intern in Port Clinton, Ohio to express my concern regarding nurse staffing ratios. As a frontline healthcare professional, I have witnessed firsthand the impact this issue has on patient care, healthcare outcomes, and the well-being of nurses.

Studies have shown that higher nurse-to-patient ratios significantly improve patient outcomes and reduce mortality rates. According to the American Nurses Association, hospitals with safe staffing ratios experience 25% lower patient mortality rates compared to those with high workloads. In my own experience as a nurse intern, I have seen how inadequate staffing leads to delayed care, increased patient falls, and medication errors. Overworked nurses suffer from burnout, which contributes to higher turnover rates and further exacerbates the shortage of qualified staff. Addressing this issue is crucial to ensuring both patient safety and the sustainability of our healthcare workforce.

I urge you to support Nurse Staffing Standards for Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2023 (S.1113) that aims to address this issue. This bill mandates that hospitals establish and maintain minimum, evidence-based nurse-to-patient staffing ratios, ensuring safer working conditions for nurses and improving patient care outcomes. By implementing these ratios, healthcare facilities can reduce medical errors, lower patient mortality rates, and decrease nurse burnout. Additionally, the bill includes provisions for public reporting of staffing levels and protections against retaliation for nurses who advocate for safer staffing. Ensuring compliance with these standards would improve overall healthcare quality and workforce retention, making the profession more sustainable in the long term.

Ensuring safe and effective nursing practices is critical to maintaining the health of our communities. I respectfully request your advocacy and leadership in addressing this urgent matter. Please let me know your position on this issue and any actions you plan to take.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Gresh