

Supporting The Passage Of The Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Litts and Provenzano)

Legislator Jeanette Provenzano and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Litts and Lopez offer the following:

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 01548 and Senate Bill 00782 have been introduced in the 2015-2016 Legislative Session to amend Public Health Law to require all acute care facilities and nursing homes to meet standards for appropriate staffing ratios of nursing and unlicensed direct care staff; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment would establish minimum nurse to patient ratios based on peer-reviewed academic research and evidence based recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment would require public disclosure of facility staffing requirements; and

WHEREAS, a Residential Health Care Facility Council would be established that would assist in the development and maintenance of required minimum staff hours of care per resident per day; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act was first introduced in the 2009-2010 New York State Legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) published research that estimated five additional deaths per one thousand patients occurred in hospitals that routinely staff with a 1:8 nurse to patient ratio compared to those staffing with a 1:4 nurse to patient ratio; and

WHEREAS, the JAMA research also found the odds of patient death increased by 7% for each additional patient the nurse must care for at one time; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) found hospitals with lower nurse staffing levels had higher rates of pneumonia, shock, cardiac arrests, urinary tract infections and upper gastrointestinal bleeds which all led to higher costs and mortality from hospital acquired complications; now, therefore, be it

Resolution No. 299 August 18, 2015

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges New York State lawmakers to support the passage of New York State Assembly Bill 01548 and Senate Bill 00782 to amend the Public Health Law in relation to enacting the “Safe Staffing For Quality Care Act” and require acute care facilities and nursing homes to implement certain direct-care nurse to patient ratios in all nursing facilities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly and Senate Health Committee Chairmen, Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chairman, Senate Finance Committee Chairman, all Ulster County elected Assemblymen and Senators and the New York State Nurses Association District 11,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services on August 3, 2015

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE