

URGENT



Safe RN Staffing Saves Lives!

In the 20 months since the House passed a bill that would have ensured safe RN staffing and quality patient care in Massachusetts' hospitals, the situation at the bedside has continued to deteriorate!

- The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Medical Errors estimates that 2,000 patients are dying in the Commonwealth annually because of hospital-acquired infections and medical errors. Studies show that these outcomes are frequently caused by inadequate RN staffing.
- **This means that EACH DAY that goes by without action on this legislation, another 6 patients die from preventable medical errors and hospital acquired infections.**
- Meanwhile, RNs working at the hospital bedside report higher and higher patient loads in all hospital units, including critical care units.

Unsafe RN Staffing is Very Expensive!

- Hospital Acquired Infections could be causing up to \$675 million in avoidable medical costs each year according to the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Medical Errors.
- Medicare has begun tightening its reimbursement regulations and will eventually cease paying for medical errors altogether. Registered Nurse staffing levels have been directly linked to fewer medical errors. **Improving RN staffing will decrease preventable medical errors, save money, and – most importantly – improve the quality of patient care!**

Protecting Health Care Reform

As Massachusetts Health Care Reform is implemented, every necessary step should be taken to reign in costs and improve the quality of patient care. Controlling costs means improving quality, and safe RN staffing levels have been linked to preventing medical errors and reducing hospital acquired infections.

By passing An Act Relative to Patient Safety, the Commonwealth will be saving both lives and costs associated with preventable medical errors and hospital acquired infections!

Every day we wait, lives are lost, and precious dollars are wasted!

PASS HB 2059, AN ACT RELATIVE TO PATIENT SAFETY, TODAY!

For more information please visit www.massnurses.org or call
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