



Vote “Yes” on H. R. 2581/S. 1357

Purpose: To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2581 entire bill proposal at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2581/text>

Findings:

- Government’s responsibility to protect the interests of society include the delivery of high-quality health care.
- Changes the healthcare delivery system have produced gaps matching sicker patients with adequate patient care by adequate numbers of nurse staffing.
- Evidence based research directly correlates patient outcomes to direct care registered nurse staffing levels. California, the only state in the U.S. that has passed legislation mandating minimum nurse to patient staffing ratios, has led to improved patient outcomes and nurse retention.
- Moreover, a 2014 federal study by Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has concluded that increases in nurse staffing and skill mix lead to patient quality improvement and reduced patient length of stay in hospitals – at no additional costs!

Legislative Action – Ask your federal House Representative to support H.R. 2581 & your federal Senator to **support** S. 1357. **Locate federal legislators at** <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

H.R. 2581/S. 1357 establishes safe staffing standards for direct care registered nurses, a critical component assuring the public that adequate numbers of registered professional nurses are always available and on duty to address the individual care needs of the patients.

Adequate nurses staffing improves patient outcomes and protects the public!

H.R. 2581/S. 1357 proposes:

That a hospital’s staffing plan with a full complement of ancillary and support staff limits a patient assignment to a direct care registered nurse as follows:

- One patient to one direct care registered nurse in the trauma emergency units
- One patient to one direct care registered nurse in the operating room
- Two patients to one direct care registered nurse in intensive care units
- Three patients to one direct care registered nurse in Emergency Room units, Pediatric units, Step-Down units, Telemetry units, Ante-Partum units, and combined Labor, Delivery and Postpartum units.
- Four patients in Medical Surgical units, Intermediate Care Nursery units, Acute care Psychiatric care units, and other specialty care units.
- Five patients to one direct care registered nurse in Rehabilitation and Skilled nursing care units.
- Six patients to one direct care registered nurse in Postpartum (3 couplets) units and well-baby nurseries.

NursesTakeDC for Safe Patient Limits! Find us at: <https://www.nursestakedc.com/>



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Other Components of H.R. 2581/S. 1357 include:

Additional Unit's Staffing Calculations

Units not specified will be staffed accordingly to provide a level of care to patients whose needs are similar care individual needs as listed in this bill.

Nurse Competency

Patient assignments to direct care registered nurses caring for patients must be aligned within the nurses' competency to care for that particular patient and is fully orientated to provide competent care in that particular unit.

Nursing Process by Direct Care Registered Nurse's within their Scope of Practice

Each patient assigned to a direct care registered nurse who shall directly assess, plan, supervise, implement and evaluate every shift

Nurses that are NOT included in Nurse Patient Ratio Calculation:

Nurse Administrators, nurse managers, charge nurse, case manager or any other hospital administrator shall not be included in Nurse Patient Ratio calculation unless the nurse is current and active in the direct care assignment of that patient.

Nurse Replacement

Other personnel may perform patient care tasks based on their training but may not assist or perform in direct care registered nurse functions unless authorized to by law.

Prohibits Mandatory Overtime

Hospital may not impose mandatory overtime to meet Patient to Nurse staffing needs.

Prohibits the use of Video Monitors

Video monitoring is prohibited as a substitute for direct care patient assessment or required for patient protection.

Exemption in Emergencies

Mandated Patient to Nurse Ratios is exempt in state of emergency. It shall be determined by the Secretary what denotes a state of emergency.

Whistle Blower Rights

Nurses use *their* judgement to report refusing to accept an **unsafe** assignment.

Retaliation for Refusing an Assignment Barred

No hospital shall discharge, retaliate, discriminate, or otherwise take adverse action against a registered nurse for refusing an assignment.