



November 9, 2023

The Honorable Julie Rogers, Chair
Members, House Health Policy Committee

Dear Chair Rogers and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to House Bills 4550-4552. These bills have the potential to severely harm access to essential health care services for all Michiganders. For Trinity Health's nine Michigan hospitals, 31 medical centers, and 23 urgent care centers, this means Michigan residents across 29 counties and many more communities served. Legislatively mandating nurse ratios, particularly at a time we are facing a severe and growing nursing shortage, is extremely problematic, as it will force hospitals to make the difficult decision to close beds and programs.

Trinity Health's Mission is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within communities. Protecting access to quality care, improving patient and colleague safety, and enhancing community health is our priority. We do this even in the midst of a critical nursing shortage, through engaging our nurses in staffing decisions, supporting and securing educational and training opportunities, partnering with academic organizations, and in care delivery innovation.

Rather than antiquated one-size-fits-all ratio thinking, Trinity Health believes staffing decisions should be made by clinicians at the local community hospital level in the best interests of the patients we serve. Legislatively mandating a statewide nurse staffing ratios will not solve the current and growing nursing shortage. Nor will it improve quality and safety – which we know by examining the California outcomes.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that you oppose House Bills 4550-4552 and explore alternative solutions that will better address the nursing shortage in our state while preserving the quality and accessibility of health care services for our residents. We are committed to working collaboratively with you and other stakeholders to find a solution that truly benefits Michiganders.

Respectfully,

Joyce Young, RN, PHD, CENP
Vice President System Nursing
Trinity Health