

November 29, 2017

Dear Chairman Vaupel and committee members,

It is my honor to write to you in support of the Safe Patient Care Act, HB 4629-4631. I was proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation during my time in office and glad to see it receiving a hearing and renewed interest this term.

In my time in the legislature I moved from opposed and skeptical of this legislation to supportive and sponsoring because the elements of it make sense. We have all likely experienced the frustrations of waiting for care for ourselves or a loved one at the hospital. I have often had to wait extremely long times just to obtain a discharge and puzzled over what could possibly be taking so long to do something so simple.

Then some of my local nurses took time to show me just how much work they have to do in paper work alone for an individual patient. Then how many patients they often have. It became obvious to me that a real problem exists: not only do they have a huge amount of responsibility placed on them in paper work and the provision of care, they have a nearly impossible task of giving each patient a reasonable chance of receiving good, quality care because of understaffing.

The experience with mandatory overtime was similar. I was not originally convinced there was an issue here that the state should intervene. But upon investigation it also became clear that the hours that many of our communities' nurses are being forced to work far exceed any reasonable person's analysis for confidence in the ability to provide consistent, quality care. Often these hours are far in excess of what truck drivers or pilots are allowed to operate – those rules set in the interest of public safety.

This is why I feel it is a legitimate issue for the legislature to consider. We must always be careful when regulating and usually only when in the interest of public safety and health. I believe these issues meet that standard and ask that you give significant thought to these bills. I believe any reasonable observer will see the evidence and the same detrimental effects I saw and the unlikelihood of change without this kind of intervention.

I am sorry I was unable to attend in person today but please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed McBroom". The signature is stylized with a large "E" and a cursive "McBroom".

Ed McBroom, Representative '11-'16
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