

The **Safe Patient Care Act**

*"I became a nurse to care for others. To give vulnerable patients the skilled care they deserve, we need safe RN staffing levels. Quality care is built on time and attention from a Registered Nurse. The **Safe Patient Care Act** would give nurses more time at the bedside to care for your loved ones."*

Brenna Tresidder, RN — Tenet DMC Huron Valley-Sinai



When registered nurses are stretched too thin or forced to work past the point of exhaustion, the chance of errors, complications, and even patient deaths increases.

But because there's no law to stop them, hospitals routinely force RNs to work short-staffed and take care of too many patients. There is also no law limiting the number of hours a nurse can be ordered to work. This failure to adequately staff comes as the hospital industry rakes in record profits.

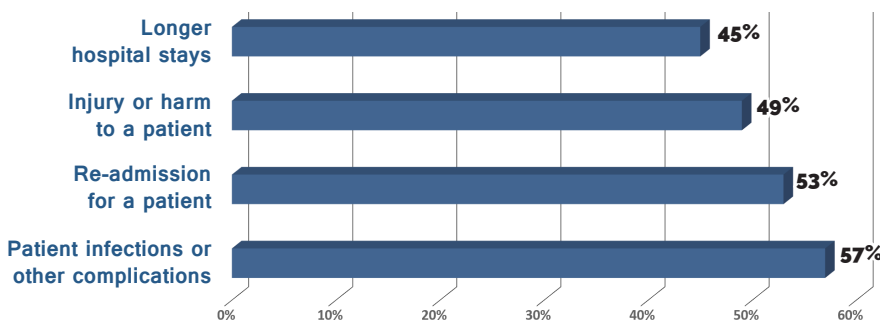
The **Campaign for Safer Hospitals** is advocating for a set of Michigan laws, the bipartisan **Safe Patient Care Act**, to protect patients by requiring hospitals to:

- Limit the number of hospital patients a nurse can be assigned (RN-to-patient ratios per unit based on evidence and national standards) - **House Bill 4629 & Senate Bill 387**;
- Restrict the use of forced RN overtime to protect patients - **HB 4630 & SB 388**;
- Tell the public their actual RN-to-patient ratios - **HB 4631 & SB 389**.

RN understaffing isn't an isolated problem, and it's not an accident. **Half of hospital RNs say they are assigned an unsafe patient load at least half of their shifts.***

RN understaffing has serious consequences.

1 in 5 Michigan nurses report being aware of instances when understaffing has led to **the death of a patient**. RNs also reported witnessing instances when understaffing led to:



* About the poll: An independent survey of 401 Michigan Registered Nurses was commissioned by MNA and conducted in March 2016 by Anderson Robbins Research. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

To get involved, visit: Mlsaferhospitals.org

Maximum number of patients per RN in the **Safe Patient Care Act**

- Emergency department 1:3
plus one RN for triage
- Medical-surgical 1:4
- Pediatrics 1:4
- Behavioral health 1:4
- Rehabilitation care 1:5
- Intensive care (all units) 1:1
- Post-anesthesia 1:2
- Stepdown 1:3
- Telemetry 1:3
- Labor and delivery
 - First stages of labor 1:2
 - 2nd and 3rd stages of labor 1:1
 - Intermediate care newborn nursery 1:3
 - Postpartum mother-baby couplet 1:3
 - Noncritical antepartum patient 1:4
 - Postpartum mother or well-baby care 1:6
- Operating room 1:1
plus one scrub assistant