



Testimony on behalf of Hartford HealthCare
Submitted to the Public Health Committee

Concerning *SB 1 An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Behavioral and
Physical health Care in Response to the Pandemic*

March 17, 2021

Hartford HealthCare (HHC) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Section 8 of the proposed bill, mandating a nurse staff ratio in an intensive care unit. HHC is committed to providing the highest quality care in order to achieve the best outcome for our patients. We have staff dedicated to building and sustaining an organizational culture of safety and using strategies and evidence-based practices to prevent complications and ensure the best patient experience.

Clinicians, and that includes nurses, are best able to decide what their staffing needs are in their hospital. Nurses continuously assess patient care needs and consider a wide range of factors that go beyond numbers and ratios to make staffing decisions. Throughout the course of a day nurses examine patient-specific factors such as the severity and urgency of a patient's condition, age, cognitive and functional ability, scheduled procedures and state of recovery. Staff-specific factors also need to be taken into consideration such as skill level, licensure, years of experience, tenure on the patient unit and level of experience with a particular type of patient care are considered. Reviewing all these factors several times a day gives nurses the ability to put staff where they are needed most at that moment rather than a statutory ratio that has no basis in real time.

HHC strongly urges members of the Public Health Committee to remove section 8 of SB 1 so that our nurses can make can make critical staffing decisions based on their patients' medical needs. Thank you for your consideration and if you need further information contact Kim Harrison at Kimberly.Harrison@hhchealth.org.