

Protecting Massachusetts Patients

..... *Fighting for* **Safer Hospitals**

Registered Nurses are the key to quality patient care. Evidence-based scientific research continues to link patient outcomes to registered nursing care. When the RN's ability to provide that care is compromised, patients suffer and costly errors and complications become more likely.

Patient safety means:

- 1) **SB 543/HB 1469 An Act Relative to Patient Safety (Sen. Marc Pacheco/Rep. Christine Canavan)** - The Patient Safety Act will protect patients and strengthen our health care system by requiring the Department of Public Health to set a limit on the number of patients a nurse is forced to care for at one time in an acute care hospital. When a nurse has too many patients to care for at one time, patient care suffers. Safe RN staffing will improve the quality of patient care and reduce costly medical errors and hospital-acquired infections, which will, in turn, save precious health care dollars.

- 2) **HB 1506 An Act Prohibiting the Dangerous Practice of Mandatory Overtime (Sen. Jack Hart/Rep. Jim O'Day)** – Hospitals across the Commonwealth have drastically increased the use of mandatory overtime as their primary staffing strategy. Forcing nurses to work when they are exhausted endangers patients and leads to costly and preventable medical errors and complications. This legislation would put an end to this reckless, costly and indefensible practice.

- 3) **SB 1237 An Act Requiring Health Care Employers to Develop and Implement Programs to Prevent Workplace Violence (Sen. James Timilty/Rep. Michael Brady)** – Nurses are victims of alarming rates of violence that put them and their patients in danger. This bill would require hospitals to conduct risk assessments with input from employees, and to design plans that would take steps to prevent workplace violence.

The Patient Safety Package is designed to protect patients at their most vulnerable moments. These three bills will improve the quality of care hospitals provide and help reduce costs, while also providing hospitals with adequate flexibility.

Protect patients in your community!

Please support the

MNA's Patient Safety Package!