<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Hospital industry begins cutting nursing staff and replacing registered nurses with unlicensed personnel. (No scientific data available to address questions raised by nurses on the safety implications to patients – industry assures no adverse impact to patient care).</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>MNA holds town meetings throughout the state open to nurses and consumers. All report healthcare changes as a result of managed care, deregulation and re-engineering causing patients to suffer.</td>
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| 1994 | MNA Statewide Safe Care Campaign is formed.  
Hospitals merge to compete, leveraging higher reimbursement rates from insurers – further nursing staff is cut.  
Blue Ribbon Commission with nursing and consumer input fashions a number of legislative health policy initiatives to rectify the rapidly deteriorating conditions in health care. (RN/Health professions ID requirement, Whistle blower legislation, moratorium on for-profits, hospital service closure oversight process, health data collection/disclosure requirements, RN-to-patient minimum staffing). |
| 1995 | Hospital industry claims nurses are exaggerating claims of poor care, no need for legislation.  
First State House rally for RN-to-patient minimum staffing.  
MNA files minimum safe RN staffing legislation. |
| 1996 | Hospitals administrative budgets increase to 46% while nursing staff is cut 27%.  
Safe Staffing bill filed for 1997/98 session. |
| 1998 | Boston Business Journal story: 495% increase in the number of patient complaints.  
American Hospital Association survey: 35% of patients report substandard care. |
Legislature passes “whistle blower protection” law to protect health care workers that speak out on patient safety and care. |
| 2000 | Safe Staffing bill filed for 2001/02 session.  
Hospital RNs leaving the bedside in record numbers citing staff/workload and mandatory overtime – untenable working conditions for those who remain.  
Legislature’s Special Commission on Nursing recommends passing safe RN staffing legislation.  
The Joint Commission: inadequate staffing levels have been a factor in nearly 25% of the most serious life-threatening events.  
Hospitals merge forming Care Group, Caritas Christi, Hallmark Health, South Coast, Northeast Health Systems, Lifespan... additionally – over 25 hospitals close during the decade. |
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- Safe Staffing bill filed for 2002/03 session.  
- State House rally features delivery of more than 80,000 signatures of Massachusetts residents gathered in just 10 days in support of safe RN staffing legislation.  
- Independent survey of Massachusetts residents reveal 82% in favor of passing minimum RN-to-patient staffing – feel current situation critical.  
- With increasing data in support of bedside nurses claims of deteriorating patient care, hospitals cite an inability to recruit nurses as the reason to oppose minimum staffing. |
| 2003 | - Safe Staffing bill favorably released by the Joint Committee on Health Care.  
- Journal of Health Care Finance: increasing nurse staffing levels is cost neutral-no impact to the bottom line.  
- Institute of Medicine report: “nurse staffing levels affect patient outcomes and safety.”  
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health report: 76% increase in reporting hospital injuries & errors.  
- Coalition to Protect Massachusetts Patients formed – 70 health care advocacy and consumer groups endorse Safe RN Staffing bill. |
| 2004 | - Independent survey of part-time nurses in Massachusetts finds that among nurses who have left the bedside – a whopping pool of 22,000 in the state – over 65% say they would strongly consider returning to the beside if the minimum RN-to-patient staffing bill passed.  
- Over 1,000 registered nurses and patient advocates rally at the State House imploring lawmakers to bring relief to patients and families assuring safe nursing care in Massachusetts hospitals – pass Safe RN Staffing H. 1282. |
| 2006 | - Coalition to Protect Massachusetts Patients grows to 100 groups.  
- Negotiations with House leadership, MNA, MHA produce a compromise RN staffing bill.  
- Compromise Bill passes House 133-20. Senate fails to take up bill before end of session. |
| 2008 | - RN Safe Staffing bill passes House 120-34.  
- State Senate voted 23-13 in support of a drastically amended version of the Patient Safety Act (S. 2816).  
- Legislative session ends in stalemate on Safe Staffing bill. |
| 2009 | - RN Safe Staffing bill filed in new legislative session and released from Committee on Public Health and Committee on Health Care Financing. |
| 2010 | - MA Legislative session ends without vote on Safe Staffing bill in either House or Senate  
- Two years after full implementation of California RN Staffing Law, peer review studies show dramatically improving recruitment and retention of nurses and significant improvements in quality of patient care. |