



# URGENT CALL TO ACTION!

## Now is the Moment to Push for Registered Nurse-to-Patient Ratios!

The petition drive conducted by the Massachusetts Nurses Association during Nurses' Week was a huge success. On behalf of registered nurses throughout the Commonwealth, we gathered an unprecedented **80,000 signatures** statewide in support of Quality Patient Care.

**Now we have an opportunity to make Registered Nurse-to-Patient Ratios a reality.**

This year's state budget includes a section that provides an opportunity for establishing safe staffing regulations in Massachusetts' hospitals. Historically, the budget process acts as a vehicle for the passage of important legislation. But the language now in the budget needs to be strengthened.

Your legislator will be highly influential in determining the final shape of the measure! **PLEASE—help us with this critical measure by contacting him or her immediately** to urge support for MNA's position. Immediate action is critical—the budget may be passed as early as July 12!

Our professional future is at stake. There is no time to spare. Safe staffing legislation will become a reality only if every frontline registered nurse in Massachusetts speaks out—loud and clear. Urge support for MNA's budget language today! And ask others who care about quality health care to join us.

Here's suggested language for a phone call to your legislator:

“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a registered nurse and a voter from \_\_\_\_\_ (town), and I'm calling to ask you to support the 20,000 frontline registered nurses of the Massachusetts Nurses Association in our push to improve quality patient care by making Registered Nurse-to-Patient Ratios law in the state budget (outside Section 78). We're grateful for your consideration of this important legislation, and we hope you'll urge your colleagues to vote for quality patient care throughout the Commonwealth.”

If you know the names of your State Rep. and Senator, call the State House at 617-722-2000 and ask to be connected. If you **don't** know your State Rep. and Senator's name and number call 617-727-2828 or visit the Secretary of State's web site at [http://www.secstate.isaka.net/magov/search\\_form.php](http://www.secstate.isaka.net/magov/search_form.php), where you can easily locate this information. You can also visit the MNA web site at [www.massnurses.org](http://www.massnurses.org) or call us at 800-882-2056, x725. To make it easier for you to write them, we've drafted a note for you to sign (see below). Please help us by filling in the name of your legislator and signing it, putting it in an envelope, and mailing it as soon as possible. In addressing your envelope, include your legislator's name as well as Statehouse, Boston, MA 02133. If you have any questions, contact Kate Anderson, who is heading up this drive, at (781) 830-5713 or [kanderson@mnarn.org](mailto:kanderson@mnarn.org).

## Staffing levels directly impact patient health and survival rates.

Unsafe Registered Nurse-to-Patient Ratios are a real danger. The New England Journal of Medicine last month released a study that clearly establishes that unsafe staffing levels put patients at risk for life threatening infections, shock, and bleeding. Conversely, when staffing ratios are where they should be, there is a reduction in all adverse outcomes. For nurses in Massachusetts, the Journal's findings provide strong scientific evidence supporting the legislation that the Massachusetts Nurses Association has filed.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to ask you to support the 20,000 front-line registered nurses in the Massachusetts Nurses Association in our push to improve quality patient care by making RN-Patient Care Ratios law in the state budget. Thank you for joining our fight to protect patient safety throughout the Commonwealth.

\_\_\_\_\_, RN

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_