This past year, many questions were raised regarding nursing and the quality of care they can deliver to their patients.

How do we protect patients so that they receive the best care in the country?

So Massachusetts doesn't end up being the fourth highest in readmission rates in the country.

How do we ensure that the nursing workforce get the additional resources they need to do their job so that their patients are protected?

The workforce development and patient safety act (SB 1255/HB 2004) calls for:

• a series of independent studies to examine the makeup of the current nursing workforce,
• determine the needs for the Commonwealth over the next several decades and
• provide an independent, evidence-based analysis of issues affecting the nursing workforce including but not limited to workplace staffing, violence, injuries and quality of life.

The result of these studies would be used to determine the path forward for setting safe patient limits in Massachusetts acute care hospital to ensure the best patient care.

The problem hasn’t gone away. We need to keep fighting for patients.

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