

# NURSES SAY YES ON SAFE PATIENT LIMITS

# 1

## The Truth About the Patient Safety Act - Question 1:

*There Are Plenty of Nurses in Mass. to Comply with the Law*

**D**espite false claims made by hospital executives, there are more than enough nurses in Mass. to meet the staffing standards called for under the Patient Safety Act - Ballot Question 1. For example:

- We have a surplus of nurses. Massachusetts ranks near the top nationally for nurses per capita and a recent report found Massachusetts to be one of only two states with NO nursing shortage (American Journal of Medical Quality, 2012).
- Massachusetts has the highest percentage of nurses working per diem or part time in the nation. We have surveyed those nurses and most say they would increase their hours if limits were in place, which would be equivalent to more than 2,000 RN positions.
- There are several thousand nurses who have left bedside nursing precisely because staffing conditions are so bad. Many of those nurses say they will return if limits are in place.
- In the last five years, Mass. nursing schools graduated more than 18,000 nurses, with an average of 3,500 graduates per year. Those nurses are now leaving our state because hospital executives refuse to hire them. (Mass Board of Registration in Nursing).
- In California following implementation of their limits law, more than 100,000 nurses flocked to the state to work under safer conditions.

**There is no shortage of nurses in Massachusetts, there is only a shortage of nurses willing to work under the current conditions.**

# Vote YES on Question 1

*If we build it, they will come.*

For more information about the Patient Safety Act, visit [www.safepatientlimits.org](http://www.safepatientlimits.org).