

March 5, 2025

Dear Chairman Abney and House Finance Committee Members,

As a Nursing Home Nurse Manager I support HB5076 Article 10.

My name is Jessica Lopes and I have been in the nursing home industry for over 15 years. I currently work at Cherry Hill Manor. This facility is a 5 Star quality rating overall and in quality of care 5 years in a row and a deficiency free survey by the Department of Public Health. Mandated staffing levels does not accomplish quality outcomes. As a manager I am not counted as staff who provides direct care which is inaccurate. There has never been a day that I come to work and do not provide direct care. I shower residents, toilet residents, pass out medication, etc. My job is to serve the residents in whatever capacity is needed. Cherry Hill is an all hands on deck type of facility. Not only Cherry Hill but my per-diem nursing jobs as well as what I see during my school clinical experience most facilities operate this way. Nursing is a field a person gets into when they care about others and want to help. Anyone in the field will help in whatever capacity needed. Most of management provides hands on care. This staffing mandate threatens the existence of multiple nursing homes with unrealistic staffing goals. By allowing this to pass as is you will be committing a severe injustice to the community. I support article 10 and hope that my testimony helps give you a reason to support it as well.