

HB5076 Article 10 SUPPORT

To whom this may concern.

Some of the best rated states for LTC according to US news include in number order starting with #1 Alaska, Hawaii, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, etc... Rhode Island is listed as # 22.

#1 Alaska has no minimum staffing requirements, just needs "sufficient staff"

#2 Hawaii has no specific requirements

#3 Utah has no minimum staffing requirements just also needs to have "sufficient staff"

The top three states per US news have no mandated minimum staffing requirements and yet they are rated the best of the best.

Rhode Island as a whole has a good reputation for its nursing homes. Some stand out more than others. I have the privilege of running one of the best in Rhode Island, Cherry Hill Manor. I have been with the company for 20 years. I have been in nursing management for over 18 years and the Director of Nursing at Cherry Hill for the last 7 years. Cherry Hill has 172 licensed beds. Its a 5 star facility per CMS. In 2024 it received a deficiency free survey by the RIDOH. Even with all of those accomplishments Cherry Hill would most days not meet the 3.81 hours of direct nursing care per day with the current allocation of providers included in the mandate. The term "It takes a village" is so true when it comes to the care provided at a SNF. It takes the entire team. The team includes all of rehab staff from rehab assistant, COTA, PTA, PT, OT, RT, ST and the DOR. Nursing from CNA, CMT, LPN, RN, unit managers, nursing supervisors, SDC, IP, ADNS and DNS. Activities assistant to the activities director, house keepers to floor techs to the maintenance crew and maintenance director. The dietary staff from the assistants to cooks, the RD and food service director. The unit secretary's to my admission director and scheduling coordinator. Many ancillary staff are experienced and licensed to assist the residents with many to all of their needs but don't count under the current direct nursing care hours. ALL staff are responsible to answer call lights and tend to the needs of the residents as well as provide various tasks for the residents throughout the day. As the director of nursing I answer call lights, pass and collect meal trays, feed residents and assist with toileting needs daily, just to name a few. This is not because I need to due to any staffing concerns its because that is example I set for my team. Working closely with many Nursing leaders throughout the state I know that this happens if most of the facilities.

If you impose the mandates with the monetary penalties it is possible that half of the SNFs in RI will be bankrupt. The other half will be employing any and all CNAs and nurses willing to work at them. They will not be the best quality of staff they will simply be employed to satisfy the mandate. This will not lead to better care if anything it will most likely have a negative impact on the overall quality of care provided and potential abuse and neglect.

For all of these above reasons stated I support Article 10.

Sincerely,

Marlaynna Broccoli RN DNS