

Ma'am/Sir,

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for Ballot Question 1, I believe passing Question 1 will greatly improve patient safety in the Commonwealth's hospitals through setting safe patient limits, while at the same time providing the flexibility to adjust nurses' patient assignments to suit specific patient needs.

At this time, excluding Intensive Care Units, there are no laws or regulations to limit the number of patients that can be assigned to a nurse at one time. I fear that stretching nurse staffing too far poses a risk to patient safety, resulting in dangerous consequences and/or unnecessary re-admissions.

Massachusetts is well placed to adopt these safe nurse staffing proposals found within Question 1. The Commonwealth's hospital industry, seeing \$28 billion a year in business and earning over \$7 billion in profits over these past 5 years, can absolutely absorb any added costs these staffing requirements will bring, and Massachusetts has more nurses per capita than almost every other state in the nation.

Question 1 is supported by a wide coalition including nurses, patients, health and safety organizations, community advocates, unions, and elected officials such as myself.

Safe patient limits will ensure better care and better outcomes for patients across our state. I am proud to be advocate in favor of Question 1.

Respectfully,

Timothy R. Whelan, (R-Brewster)
State Representative
1st Barnstable District

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