



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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Assistant Vice Chairman
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

EDUCATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
BILLS IN THE THIRD READING

April 7, 2015

Dr. Stuart Altman, Chair
Massachusetts Health Policy Commission
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Chairman Altman:

As the Health Policy Commission looks to begin implementation of Chapter 155 of the Acts of 2014, "An Act relative to patient limits in all hospital intensive care units," I would like to ensure the legislation's intent is retained. In reviewing the proposed regulations, I have some concerns with what appears to be a departure from the intent of the legislation, which was a one patient to one nurse assignment with the ability to move to a two patient to one nurse assignment based on the stability of the patients as assessed by the direct care nurses in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), with the assistance of an acuity tool. The acuity tool was intended to supplement, not replace, the clinical judgment of the staff nurses who would also be involved in both the development- and approval- of the acuity tool. Also, please note that no exemptions were included in the law; therefore an ICU nurse should not be caring for more than two patients at one time.

My colleagues and I unanimously approved this legislation to protect our state's most vulnerable patients. I hope that regulations derived from this legislation do not deviate from the law's purpose.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sal DiDomenico".

Senator Sal DiDomenico
Middlesex and Suffolk District