



Breaking Point: Pennsylvania's Patient Care Crisis

Patient care is in crisis in Pennsylvania.

Over the last 20 years, hospital profits and CEO pay have grown to record-levels while health care systems across the state are consolidating and investing more capital in for-profit subsidiaries and insurance operations. With competition and pressure to keep the doors open on the rise, major corporations and executives began, and continue to this day, to enact policies and practices that put profits over patients, and reduce labor costs. Our health care systems are feeling the effects of these decisions now more than ever.

Nurses and other health care professionals across the state and in every work setting are increasingly forced to do more with less. This broken system views nursing and frontline care as a line item on a spreadsheet, disregarding nurses' critical role in providing quality care. Our broken system sees nurses as a cost, not a value.

What Do Nurses Say?

A survey of 1,000 Pennsylvania nurses who work in hospitals, schools, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care and more reported:

- **51%** of nurses report that their input on how things are done at work has **decreased in the last 5 years.**
- **About 69%** of nurses report their time spent bedside per shift has **decreased** over the past 5 years.
- **94% of nurses** report that their facility does not have enough nursing staff and **87%** report that staffing levels affecting patient care are getting worse.
- **About 84%** of nurses report that a high rate of turnover among nurses is a problem in their facility and **about 79%** report that since they began working at their present job, the rate of turnover among nurses has increased

Solutions

While Pennsylvania is not experiencing a shortage of available nurses, staffing decisions made by individual facilities regarding both nurses and support staff and the ability to retain qualified nurses have fueled a crisis in patient care. Nurses agree: to solve Pennsylvania's patient care crisis we need: safe nurse to patient ratios across the state and transparency for patients about nurse staffing and other support staff levels.

House Bill 833 & Senate Bill 336: Based on recommendations by the Joint State Government Commission, legislation provides for easily accessible reports on staffing levels in Pennsylvania hospitals.

House Bill 1500 and Senate Bill 214: Bipartisan legislation establishes safe nurse to patient ratios.

Visit www.nursesofpa.org for more information