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Senate of Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Tim Solobay 

DATE: February 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Memo #7: Nursing Staff Ratios

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce HB 147 of 2009-10, which I introduced as a member of the House of Representatives.

HB 147 would amend the Health Care Facilities Act of July 19, 1979 to include specific provisions for nursing staff-to-patient ratios. This bill results from a need to ensure that those who undergo medical care receive the caliber of care that they deserve. Registered nurses and nursing staff are an indispensable part of our healthcare system and there are many tasks that they are specifically trained to do. In order for these nurses to function at their professional best, they need to receive the staff support and manageable work load that allows them to provide the detailed, personal attention to which patients have become accustomed.

As budget cuts to boost profit margins loom, I feel that it is incumbent upon us to ensure that nurses are protected. Under this legislation, medical care facilities would be required to devise and post a staffing plan pursuant to the guidelines in this bill and place them prominently in the facility. Additionally, these facilities would be required to provide records and status updates as requested by governing bodies.

I hope that you will join me in this legislation to protect some of the most valuable members of our healthcare workforce.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Rachel Moore at rmoore@pasenate.com or 7-1463.