SPEAKER NOTES – SAFE STAFFING

1) THERE IS NO INCENTIVE FOR MANAGEMENT TO PROPERLY STAFF UNITS

A) NO PENALTIES B) SHORT TERM PROFIT GAINS

2) MILLIONS ARE PAID OUT IN WORKER COMP YEARLY BUT THOSE COSTS ARE NOT PASSED ONTO THE HOSPITALS

3) BURNOUT OF STAFF IS A CONSTANT FACTOR IN SHORT STAFFING AND INCREASED RISKS OF INJURY TO PATIENTS AS WELL AS STAFF

4) CALIFORNIA IS THE FIRST TO LEGISLATE STAFFING RATIOS

A) THERE HAVE BEEN SOME POSITIVE OUTCOMES FROM THAT LEGISLATION

5) WE AT THE STATE ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST OFFENDERS OF SAFE STAFFING. MANAGEMENT CONSTANTLY STONEWALLS AGAINST CRIES FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR RISING ACUITY

6) IN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL – STUDIES FIND THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS

A) FOR EVERY PATIENT OVER 4 TO 1 NURSE – DEATH RATES INCREASE 4%

B) HIGH TURNOVER RATES LEAD TO POOR PATIENT CARE AND OUTCOMES

C) IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT APPROXIMATELY 43% OF ALL NURSES ARE BURNED OUT OR DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR JOB

D) OF 232,342 PATIENTS STUDIED, 53,813 (23%) HAD MAJOR COMPLICATIONS THAT WERE NOT PRESENT UPON ADMISSION

E) RECENT POLLING FROM BREAKING POINT COMMITTEE FOUND THAT 94% OF FACILITIES DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE STAFF AND 87% OF NURSES REPORT CONDITIONS ARE GETTING WORSE. IN ADDITION TO THAT, 84% OF NURSES REPORT FREQUENT TURNOVER IS A PROBLEM AT THEIR FACILITY. THE REPORT FOUND THAT NURSES CITED LACK OF TIME TO SPEND WITH THEIR PATIENTS AND THIS HAS LEAD TO INABILITY TO ADDRESS EMERGING ISSUES IN A TIMELY MANNER.

F) IN ONE STUDY OF 7,062 PATIENTS, 1245 HAD TO BE READMITTED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. THE REASONS PROVIDED WERE COMPLICATIONS THAT WERE NOT ADRESSED PRIOR TO DISCHARGE. THIS TRANSLATES TO AT LEAST 5 MILLION DOLLARS SPENT EACH MONTH (ASSUMING 4,000 PER PERSON) WHICH MEANS WE SPEND 60 MILLION A YEAR MORE THAN WE SHOULD BE SPENDING FOR EVERY 7,100 PATIENTS LEAVING THE HOSPITAL

SOME OF THE UNDERLYING ISSUES FOR LACK OF CARE

1) 86% OF NURSES STATED THEY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO COMPLETE ALL ASPECTS OF PAPERWORK FOR THE PATIENT PRIOR TO DISCHARGE.

2) 47% OF NURSES STATED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE TIME TO CREATE OR UPDATE CARE PLAN

3) THE VA SYSTEM LISTED 30% TURNOVER IN NURSING ASSISITANTS AND A “HIGH” NUMBER OF NURSES ON LEAVE

SUMMARY:

WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR AND ACCEPT THESE POOR RESULTS. WE OUTSPEND EVERY OTHER NATION BY 2: 1 YET WE ARE FAR BEHIND EVEN MODEST INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. IF WE DO NOT CHANGE THEY WAY WE DELIVER HEALTH CARE THEN WE ARE PRACTICING INSANITY. BY THIS I MEAN DOING THE SAME THINGS WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE AND EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS.

PLEASE SUPPORT SAFE STAFFING LEGISLATION. IT WILL HELP ENSUR THAT WE DELIVER BETTER HEALTH CARE AT LOWER OVERALL COSTS