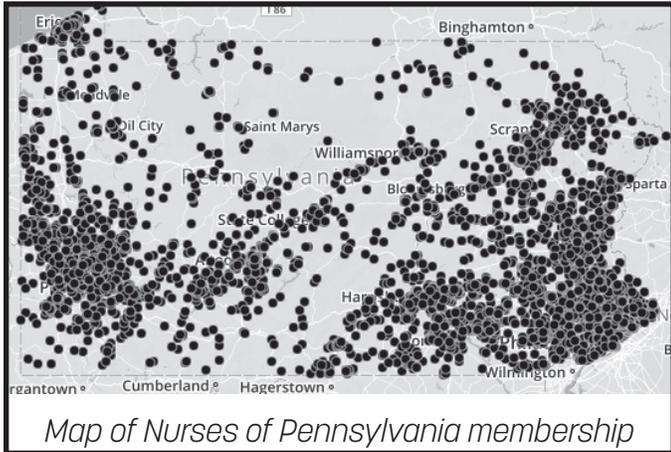




# Nurses of Pennsylvania

**We are a grassroots movement of 10,000 nurses united for patient safety and better quality care.**

We were formed in May 2017 by 80 nurses in Pittsburgh and Scranton. Since then 11,000 nurses have joined us to support safe staffing laws and our vision of patient-first health care.



We are in every county, every house and senate district, and every corner of this state.

We are union and non-union nurses.

- 10% union, 90% non-union

We are bipartisan.

- 24% Republican, 29% Democrat, 47% Independent

**Pennsylvania is in a patient safety crisis, driven by unprecedented short-staffing.**

In Pennsylvania hospitals, each additional patient a nurse has increases the risk of death by 7%. Many nurses are now two to four patients over a safe nurse-to-patient ratio.<sup>1</sup> People are dying because of short-staffing.

Our survey of 1,000 bedside nurses found:<sup>2</sup>

- 94% of nurses say their facility does not have enough nursing staff
- 95% have been unable to provide best care as a result.
- 84% said high turnover is a problem where they work.
- 79% said it had increased since they started.

**In the last year, our members have spoken with thousands of their colleagues and hundreds of legislators.**

Since October over 10,000 people have signed our petition for safe patient limits and staffing transparency. In November, over 500 of us called every state senator in 48 hours for safe staffing laws. By February, we grassroots fundraised enough to raise five billboards all over Pennsylvania through \$20 donations.

1 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12387650>.

2 <http://www.nursesofpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Nurses-of-Pa-Patient-Care-Crisis-Report.pdf>.

## Legislators must pass bipartisan safe staffing laws, which 90% of nurses want

We need safe patient limits in hospitals. We are asking legislators to **support HB 1500/SB 214 which would establish safe patient limits**. These limits have worked in California, and research suggests they could reduce patients deaths by 11% in Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup>

### We need *safer* patient limits in nursing homes.

Staffing levels are set in §211.12 of the PA Code, and require only 2.7 hours of direct nursing care for each resident.<sup>4</sup> This is *far* too short for elderly residents who are sicker than ever before. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is reviewing these regulations, and if they do not improve these patient limits, we need legislators to do it.

At the very least, we need staffing levels to be transparent. We ask you to **support HB 833/SB 336**, based on the Joint State Government Commission's own recommendations in 2015,<sup>5</sup> so patients and families can make informed choices about their own health.



## Staffing committees and delegation are false solutions that few bedside nurses want.

We do not need safe staffing committees, and ask legislators to **oppose House Bill 2092**, which would establish staffing committees of nurses and administrators to make suggestions for how to improve staffing. None of this would be binding. Nurses at hospitals with staffing committees know these lead to lots of talk but no action.



We do not need non-nurses doing our work under our license. We ask legislators to **oppose HB 820/SB 518**, which would authorized nurses to delegate certain nursing care tasks. It attempts to solve a problem that does not exist, and it would force nurses to delegate their care to non-qualified persons, while leaving all of the liability on the nurse and putting their license at risk.

### Nurses of PA are asking you to **SUPPORT**:

- **HB 1500/SB 214**: Safe Patient Limits
- **HB 833/SB 336**: Staffing Transparency

### Nurses of PA are asking you to **OPPOSE**:

- **House Bill 2092**: Staffing Committees
- **HB 820/SB 518**: Nurse Delegation

**For questions or additional information, please contact Ryan Beaston at [Ryan.Beaston@NursesOfPA.org](mailto:Ryan.Beaston@NursesOfPA.org).**

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2908200/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/028/chapter211/s211.12.html>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/resources/documents/ftp/publications/2015-413-HR920%20FINAL%20REPORT%206.30.15.pdf>.