



Testimony on HB1194/SB1020

Safe Staffing Act of 2024

Position: **FAV**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fabaya Pollard. I'm an Environmental Service Staff (EVS) worker at a hospital, and a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Hospitals are short staffed every day. It doesn't matter what department or shift, everyone is working short. This is unsustainable. We are human beings and we need to have safe work environments. Therefore, I urge a **favorable** report on HB1194 / SB1020: The Safe Staffing Act of 2024.

EVS is essential. We maintain sanitary environments, which is very important for patients' and workers' safety. I work from 7:00am to 3:30pm. I'm responsible for sanitizing four floors including common areas, pharmacies, employee break rooms, and bathrooms. There are only two EVS workers in my building on my shift, so when one of us calls out, the other is responsible for all 10 floors. When night shift workers call out, my shift is responsible for completing their unfinished tasks as well.

Our work is literally back-breaking. There aren't enough workers to empty trash cans on a regular basis so the trash bags are getting too heavy from being overstuffed. Workplace injuries are increasing because of this. Then workers have to call out, making the short staffing even worse. I was out on workers comp for a whole month because I sprained my back lifting a heavy bag, and I'm still in physical therapy.

There is a high worker turnover rate because we are overworked and disregarded by management when we raise concerns about short staffing. The Safe Staffing Act of 2024 can help fix these problems by giving us a voice. A committee that is at least 50% workers will ensure the safe staffing plan is a success when implemented. We all have a part to play in ending the short staffing crisis, so we should all have the opportunity to craft the hospital safe staffing plan together. Please vote YES on this bill.

In Unity, Fabaya Pollard