



Testimony on HB1194/SB1020  
Safe Staffing Act of 2024  
Position: **FAV**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Vitjitua Meize. I'm a Patient Transporter at a hospital and a member of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. I am a young, able bodied person with a lot of experience in physically demanding labor like working in warehouses. I never had physical injuries while working in warehouses. Since I have started working short staffed in the hospital, I have injured my knee and my back numerous times. Understaffing is getting worse every day. Legislators, we need YOUR help. I urge a **favorable** report on HB1194/SB1020: Safe Staffing Act of 2024.

I decided to start working at a hospital instead of warehouses because I care about people. Helping patients gives me a sense of purpose. The impact that workforce shortages in my department have on patients is heartbreaking. Their health is at risk because they have to wait longer to be transported for testing and procedures. Timing really matters in the hospital. Last week, my department was two hours behind because of short staffing. When you are waiting to get a procedure or a test that could save your life, waiting an additional two hours can have severe consequences.

Working as a Patient Transporter is physically and mentally draining. A lot of us are burning out. I worry about the impact that has on patients, because when workers are exhausted they are more likely to make mistakes and can't move as quickly. I support the Safe Staffing Act of 2024 because it will improve the quality of care for our patients. Please vote YES on this life saving bill. Thank you.

In Unity,

Vitjitua Meize