



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

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is LaShai Simms. I'm a Patient Transporter at a hospital and a member of 1199SEIU. Patient Transporters usually work 10-12 hour shifts moving patients and equipment throughout the hospital, but because of short staffing, some of us are regularly working 16 hour shifts. We have 4-6 workers scheduled per shift, but most days only 2-3 workers show up. It's been like this for months. I urge a **favorable** report on HB1194/SB1020: Safe Staffing Act of 2024.

Our jobs are physically demanding. Workplace injuries are common in my department because we are always moving quickly. We have less than 21 minutes per patient. When a task comes in, we have one minute to accept it, five minutes to get to the patient, and fifteen minutes to get the patient where they need to go. Then we repeat that cycle for 12 hours on average. My feet hurt constantly. There is never any time to sit down and we have to ask permission to go to the restroom. When we do get to use the restroom, we are only given five minutes. Our bodies are breaking down because of short staffing. That is one of the reasons so many workers frequently call out sick, which makes short staffing worse. It's a vicious cycle.

Management does not take our concerns about short staffing seriously. Workers are under constant surveillance, we are shamed when we need to take a break, we are underpaid, and we were recently told to *not* report positive COVID tests to Occupational Health.

We need the Safe Staffing Act of 2024 because it gives workers a voice in addressing the short staffing crisis. Our voices matter! This bill will help us create a healthy and safe working environment by making sure a safe staffing plan is drafted by a committee that is 50% workers. Please vote YES on HB1194 / SB1020.

In Unity, LaShai Simms