



SB411/HB624  
Safe Staffing Act of 2026  
Position: **FAV**

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharae Stinnette and I am a Patient Care Associate (PCA) at a hospital. PCAs do total care for patients. That means we help them with baths, oral care, changing them and their linens, using the restroom. We are also tasked with finger sticks, EKGs, bladder scans, and turning the patient every two hours so they do not develop bedsores. There are some patients that can't be left alone for any amount of time, so we sit with them. When we don't have enough PCA's patients can't get the care they need. I urge a **favorable** report on the Safe Staffing Act.

PCAs are overworked and underpaid. I work on a unit with 32 beds with one other PCA. We each have 12 patients, with 6 of those patients being total care. I'm busy all day going back and forth. We really need 1-2 more PCAs so that someone can be available to sit with patients and so someone else can help with total care patients. It's so tiring to not have a fully staffed care team.

Patients are getting distressed about the lack of staffing. Sometimes they verbally abuse us. I know they are frustrated, so I reassure them that I am doing the very best that I can, but at the end of the day it's understandable why they are upset. There's only so much we can do when there aren't enough of us.

It is so important that the Safe Staffing Act become law because the perpetual understaffing at my hospital is hurting everyone. Please vote YES on this bill.

In Unity,

Sharae Stinnette