

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health enforces nurse-to-patient ratios as required by State law; and

WHEREAS, adherence to the required nurse-to-patient ratio is critical for the delivery of quality medical care and patient safety; and

WHEREAS, nurse-to-patient ratios are required to be followed at all times; however, there is great concern that hospitals often violate State law by requiring nurses to assume responsibility for their colleague's patients during break periods, and in doing so, results in the relieving nurse exceeding the State's maximum nurse-to-patient ratios and may place the patient in danger as a result of the improper staffing assignment; and

WHEREAS, nurses regularly report these violations to State regulators but face discipline or even termination of employment if they refuse these assignments; and

WHEREAS, pending in the Legislature is AB 1102 (Rodriguez), which would prohibit a health facility from discriminating or retaliating, in any manner against any patient, employee, member of the medical staff, or any other health care worker of the facility for refusing an assignment or change in assignment on the basis that it would violate nurse-to-patient ratio regulations; and


WHEREAS, this bill would prevent nurses from being forced to choose between the safety of their patients and losing their job if they refuse an assignment which violates California's nurse staffing laws; and

WHEREAS, AB 1102 would protect nurses, enhance patient safety, and place the responsibility for proper staffing back upon the employer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1102 (Rodriguez), which would prohibit a health facility from discriminating or retaliating, in any manner against any patient, employee, member of the medical staff, or any other health care worker of the facility because that person has refused an assignment on the basis that it would violate State nurse-to-patient ratio regulations.

PRESENTED BY:   
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

APR 19 2017   
BMR

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