



Leadership is our business

Associated Industries of Massachusetts

One Beacon Street, 16th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

617.262.1180 | www.aimnet.org

March 24, 2014

Senator James T. Welch
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House, Room 416A
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Letter in opposition to HB3843, HB1008 and SB557

Dear Chairman Welch:

Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) wishes to be recorded in **opposition** to three mandatory staffing ratio bills currently in your committee: *HB 3843, patient safety act; HB 1008, An Act relative to patient safety; and SB 557, An Act relative to patient safety.*

AIM has consistently opposed the misguided policy of one-size fits all mandatory staffing ratios and we wish to share our concerns regarding similar proposals before your committee.

Codifying in government regulation staffing levels for any entity is misguided, counterproductive and costly. It is undeniable that the complexity of determining appropriate nurse staffing levels for any health care institution involves myriad factors and expert judgments that cannot be adequately reduced to regulation. For all employers, appropriate staffing levels are best determined at each respective workplace.

Mandating staffing ratios will also hurt the state's payment reform efforts to control health care costs. As you know, much of the focus in health care policy is on changing the way we pay for care. Rather than paying doctors and hospitals for the number of patients they see or the tests they order, we are now entering the era of paying them for the health care outcomes of their patients. The premise of payment reform is to incent coordinated, integrated care that leads to healthier patients, less use of services and improved quality. The proposed bills are projected to increase overall costs of care with no guarantee for improvement in quality or positive outcomes.

On behalf of our members, AIM urges the Committee to give all three bills an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Kristen Lepore
Vice President Government Affairs