



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

**SENATOR SAL DiDOMENICO**  
Middlesex and Suffolk District

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*Assistant Vice Chairman*  
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

EDUCATION  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES  
BILLS IN THE THIRD READING

March 24, 2014

The Honorable James T. Welch, Senate Chair  
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing  
State House, Room 416A  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jennifer E. Benson, House Chair  
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing  
State House, Room 236  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman McGee and Chairman Straus,

I am writing to request your support for S. 557/H.1008, "An Act relative to patient safety." It is my hope that this important bill will be reported out of committee favorably.

Some Registered Nurses (RNs) in our hospitals are caring for too many patients, which can lead to care that is below the typical high standard. This act will protect both our patients and RNs by providing a healthier working environment and a safer hospital stay, by creating a limit on the number of clients a nurse may have. The limit will allow the RN to focus more attention on each patient, which will reduce the errors, infections, and resulting deaths. Another important aspect of the bill is that it requires hospitals to take into consideration the needs of the patients even more and adjust patient assignments in order to give the client the best care possible at the hospital. If passed, this act would help everyone who is admitted into a hospital, those who work in our hospitals, and save health care money by preventing readmissions.

Thank you again for your consideration and I hope the Committee will give this legislation a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sal DiDomenico".

Senator Sal DiDomenico  
Middlesex and Suffolk District