



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

HEALTHCARE FINANCING

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TO: The Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
Senator James T. Welch, Chairman and Representative Jennifer E. Benson, House
Vice-Chair

RE: *H. 3843, An Act relative to patient safety*

DATE: March 24, 2014

I write in support of *H. 3843, An Act relative to patient safety*. This bill improves patient safety by limiting the number of patients a registered nurse can care for at one time. Without any limits, patients are suffering the consequences, which include preventable errors, avoidable complications, increased lengths of stay, and readmissions.

The legislation also creates a patient acuity system which will provide hospitals with the flexibility to care for more severely ill patients and prohibits hospitals from reducing the staffing levels of other personnel who affect the quality of patient care.

I urge the Health Care Financing Committee to favorably report this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Jehlen".

Patricia Jehlen