

Sample Letter to the Editor – Mandatory Overtime

SAMPLE

To the Editor:

I recently saw an inspiring television commercial urging people to enter the nursing profession. As a registered nurse with ___ years of experience, I can assure you that nursing is a very rewarding career.

Unfortunately, working conditions in many hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care delivery settings are making it hard for some nurses to do their jobs.

Nurses know how to make improvements in patient care. We also know how to prevent harm. I've seen disasters avoided only because a nurse rescued a patient at the last second. But it's hard to do that if nurses are forced to work double shifts when they're physically and mentally exhausted.

As New York's legislative session draws to a close, our elected officials must take action on issues of critical importance to health care consumers. The system is not working. Short staffing is putting both patients and nurses at risk. Mandatory overtime contributes to medical errors and nurse burnout. New Yorkers need to know that when they check in to a hospital, there will be enough nurses to care for them, and that they will get the quality care they need and deserve.

"Name, Credentials"

Address

Phone

e-mail

Sample Letter to the Editor – Disclosure

SAMPLE

To the Editor:

Hospitals will soon be required to disclose infection rates. As a registered nurse, I believe this is a positive step. But state law covers only half the story on hospital infections.

Research has shown that infections, bedsores, complications, and medication errors increase when the number of patients per RN increases. If a registered nurse is not present at the bedside to pick up on the subtle changes exhibited by patients, thus heading off the above problems, reporting infections will do nothing to assure patient safety.

Healthcare consumers are entitled to know all the facts, not just infection rates. In the past, the State Senate failed to act on a bill proposed by the New York State Nurses Association that would require all health care institutions to report patient infections and complications *plus* the ratio of registered nurses to patients.

I hope both houses of the legislature will pass this measure. With this information in hand, healthcare consumers could then make truly informed decisions about where to go for care.

“Name, Credentials”

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