

## Sample Letter to the Editor – Safe Staffing Ratios

**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 there are too few nurses on staff.

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. 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 – Educational Advancement

**SAMPLE**

To the Editor:

I am writing to you in regard to a bill currently being discussed at the state legislature. Advancement of Nursing Education is legislation that would require future registered professional nurses to earn bachelor's degrees in nursing within ten years of their initial licensure in order to re-register to practice in New York State.

As a professional nurse, I know that my colleagues and I need educational experiences that fully prepare us for the increasingly complex health care environments in which we work. On a daily basis, RNs are dealing with new and advanced technologies, medications and treatments, as well as chronic health conditions across age groups.

Bachelor's degree programs provide additional content in key areas of nursing theory and research, and expose students to areas of practice that are not part of associate degree programs, such as public health, home care, and other outpatient settings. The baccalaureate curriculum more thoroughly prepares nurses for working in the increasingly challenging health care settings in which we now find ourselves. This measure is consistent with the state's overall commitment to encouraging professionals to advance their education and is modeled after the requirement that public school teachers in New York earn master's degrees within five years of initial certification.

I hope both houses of the legislature will pass Educational Advancement of Nursing Education during the 2009-2010 legislative session.

"Name, Credentials"

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