

OPEIU INVOLVEMENT IN NURSE SAFE STAFFING LAWS

WHEREAS, OPEIU has established and recognized a Nurses Council; and

WHEREAS, the OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC) was founded with the intention to actively participate in legislation affecting the nursing profession; and

WHEREAS, there is abundant scientific research proving a correlation between safe nurse to patient ratios and positive patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, safe staffing research demonstrates lower patient mortality and morbidity rates and higher nurse satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, short staffing has been implicated in an increased amount of injuries to nurses and patients; and

WHEREAS, safe working conditions are one of the foundations of our rich union history; and

WHEREAS, safe staffing ratios will impact the nursing shortage by bringing back nurses who left the profession because of fear they could not safely take care of their patients; and

WHEREAS, the recently enacted safe staffing law in California has not caused the closing of a single hospital in the state, proving safe staffing is financially achievable; and

WHEREAS, OPEIU nurses need to be actively involved in the legislation that will advance their professionalism in the face of aggressive tactics from NNU to undercut our solidarity; and

WHEREAS, as so-called “right-to-work” legislation is being implemented in many states, OPEIU involvement in safe staffing laws will solidify the need for nurses to remain or become unionized.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU, along with the OPEIU Nurses Council, will support legislation for safe staffing laws currently pending throughout the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OPEIU and the OPEIU Nurses Council will collaboratively form an action plan to make our political presence known throughout the nursing community nationwide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OPEIU and the OPEIU Nurses Council lobby on behalf of safe working conditions that our sisters and brothers before us fought for during the formation of our union; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED through OPEIU support and in collaboration with the OPEIU Nurses Council, nurses will have an opportunity to participate in making the legislative changes necessary to achieve safe staffing laws. This will heighten awareness of the importance of union solidarity in the face of changes before us due to so-called “right-to-work” laws.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019