



November 19, 2002

Dear Representative,

We ask for your support in our efforts to attain safe staffing in all Pennsylvania hospitals. Enclosed are postcards from nurses who are your constituents who have seen firsthand the need for safer staffing in our hospitals.

As you may know, recent studies, including a study by Linda Aiken at the University of Pennsylvania published in the October issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, have linked high nurse-to-patient ratios with patient mortality. The Aiken study shows that poor nurse-to-patient ratios are linked to patient injuries and deaths. PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, supports legislation which would require safe staffing in our hospitals, including House Bill 2742/Senate Bill 1494, the Safe Staffing and Quality Care Act.

We ask for your support when this legislation is reintroduced in the next legislative session. If you have not already, we encourage you to sign on as a co-sponsor. If we can provide you with any additional information about the need for safe staffing legislation, please contact us at your convenience.

PASNAP is a 4000 member state-wide health care union representing nurses and other health care professionals.

Sincerely,

Teri Evans

Teri Evans, RN
President
PASNAP