



**Testimony in Support of HB 3016**

**February 23, 2021**

**House Committee On HealthCare**

**Regina Leytem, RN**

Greetings Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee.

Hello, my name is Regina Leytem RN CPAN. I have been working at Samaritan Albany General Hospital, this will be my 33 year and I brought 11 years of experience with me when I became employed. I am not only a senior RN but also co-chair of our staffing committee for the past 3 years. This pandemic wreaked havoc in the hospital, management not giving clear direction at the beginning and presently running staffing with ignoring the staff input and **NOT following the plan.**

We have had our critical care staff saying to management “this needs to change, or we have to quit”. We are talking about three experienced nurses talking and one did quite due to inability to tolerate the stress any longer. This did not just hurt me personally, but it left other nurses and those less experienced without a critical resource of information and knowledge and this directly impacts patients.

The staffing plan has been manipulated by management not giving the staff needed. We also hear there are no nurses to be found. Our staffing committee meeting since last March we have had all canceled except the December meeting. We need HB 3016 to help keep the management at the table discussing and solving problems with staffing even with the next crisis. HB 3011 will give the funds needed by the OHA to support its staff to do its duty in the enforcement of the law. What it does not do is prepare for the next pandemic or the next emergency.

I personally believe in this staffing law can help protect every patient and the staff that help take care of them. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Regina Leytem, RN