

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to express my personal support for HB 50 which would limit the amount of hours that a nurse can work. HB 50's primary purpose is to reduce the length of the work day for Nurses and I wanted to urge you bring this bill forward to a floor vote. As I understand it, this bill has been knocking around for 6 years, in various forms and has yet to make it to the floor. Personally, I don't want a Pilot, a Doctor or a Nurse holding my life in their hands when they are on the 16th or 18th hour of work in the last 24, unless it is a national emergency. I know when I get to the end of a double shift as a manager, I am often not thinking very straight. The important consideration here is the safety of the patients who deserve staff who are alert and functioning.

My daughter-in-law is nearing completion of her nursing degree at UAA, which is an exceptional program and the legislature should be applauded for its continued support of the University system. She is concerned, as she should be, over the crushing work load that is sometimes more the norm than the exception. She supports a reasonable limit on the work schedule, given the gravity of the work that she is entrusted with.

As a profession, Nurses really do put the patient first. On Tuesday, in the teeth of the storm that closed the Seward Highway with an avalanche, I nearly had to take the keys out of the car of a neighbor who is a nurse. She was so determined to get to work, but that road was not safe. The other early morning encounter was with another valley nurse who was stuck trying to get to work. These are what we expect of these professionals.

I am a member of the THAC board of directors and expect to be presented with a resolution for HB 50 and expect to support it. I urge the committee to move this bill forward so that the entire legislature can vote on it before the end of the session.

Sincerely,

Larry Daniels
P.O. Box 867
154 Kitzbuhel
Girdwood, AK 99587

SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 50


Honorable Representative Seaton:

I work at South Peninsula Hospital as a Registered Nurse. I have reviewed House Bill 50 limiting mandatory overtime for nurses, and I am strongly in favor of this bill. We cannot deliver excellent patient care when we are exhausted.

Please help us by supporting this Bill which will benefit our patients, our hospital and our community.

Thank you.

Best regards,


SIGNATURE

4030 Kay Ct
ADDRESS
Homer AK
99603

cc: House Finance Committee

Support for House Bill 50

"An act relating to limitations on mandatory overtime for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in health care facilities; and providing for an effective date."

Honorable Representative Seaton:

I am a 60 year old nurse who works at South Peninsula Hospital in Homer. I have been a licensed registered nurse in Alaska since 1978. I am absolutely delighted to see a bill addressing mandatory overtime for nurses.

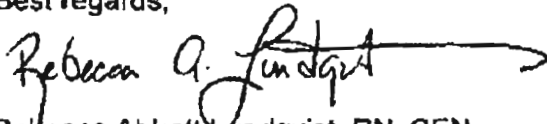
It appears to me that the acuity (level of "sickness") of our patients has increased from my early years in nursing. This means that our critical assessment and critical thinking skills must be at a high level at all times. Here at the Homer Hospital we work 12 hours shifts. That is about the maximum number of hours that I can work at my best, and I know I am not unique in this. And I vehemently refuse to treat a patient when I am not capable. It is not safe for the patients; it is unethical and unprofessional for me to assume I can still give the care my patients deserve.

There is no question that we will all rally in an emergency. I was working night shift through our "blizzard" March 11-14th. Each morning we were not sure how many staff members would be able to make it to the hospital. We were all prepared to work as long as we needed to. (Fortunately, our day nurses were true rural Alaskans and all managed to arrive on time!)

I encourage you, for the benefit of our hospital patients, to strongly support HB 50.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for this bill.

Best regards,



Rebecca Abbott Lundqvist, RN, CEN
PO Box 2675
Homer, Alaska 99603

cc: House Finance Committee

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Please help us by supporting this Bill which will benefit our patients, our hospital and our community.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Lana K. Duman R.N.
SIGNATURE

P.O. Box 2606 Juneau, AK 99603
ADDRESS

cc: House Finance Committee