



RE: Support for the Safe Patient Care Act

On behalf of the Michigan Athletic Trainers' Society (MATS) and our members across the state of Michigan that we represent, I am writing this letter in support of the bipartisan legislative collection of bills known as the Michigan Safe Patient Care Act. MATS is a professional membership organization for Athletic Trainers (AT) who seek to advance the profession of Athletic Training in the State of Michigan. ATs are licensed healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients across age and care continuums. The AT profession encompasses injury and illness prevention, examination, assessment, and diagnosis, immediate and emergency care, therapeutic intervention, and the administration of acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. ATs work under the direction of, on the prescription of, or in collaboration with physicians, as prescribed by the state of Michigan licensure statute.

ATs are medically licensed and professionally equipped to provide health care in many different employment settings including, but not limited to, hospital and clinical rehabilitation settings, secondary school and collegiate athletic and educational settings, professional athletic settings, youth sports settings, physician offices, performing arts, industrial and occupational settings, public safety and military settings.

As licensed healthcare professionals, ATs are empathetic to the working conditions that nurses are experiencing. Oftentimes, ATs work long hours and typically are the only healthcare provider on staff during high-risk competitions and practices. Like nurses, ATs face burnout and may explore other employment opportunities. It is not unordinary for ATs to save lives; however, nurses are put in this position to save lives every day, and it is of the utmost importance that nurses are provided with the safest, most satisfactory, and effective environment possible. This support does not just come from the MATS as a professional organization, but from the people that make up the members MATS who have family and friends who rely on nurses to keep them safe and healthy. How can nurses be expected to keep our families safe if they themselves are not safe and supported? For these reasons, MATS is in support of the following three bills being passed into law:

- House bill 4550/Senate bill 334 establishes safe limits on the number of patients a nurse can be assigned at any given time;
- HB 4551/SB 335 prohibits dangerous mandatory overtime for nurses; and
- HB 4552/SB 336 adds transparency and accountability by requiring hospitals to disclose their nurse-to-patient ratios to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cieccko III".

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