

# Staffing Penalties Add No Value, Inflate Costs

This bill creates large, multiple penalties if a nurse is unexpectedly unavailable on the floor, even if for a few minutes, regardless of circumstance and in addition to already existing penalties.

## \$2.9 billion

The nurse staffing ratio mandate already adds about **\$2.9 billion annually** to the cost of care in California with no discernible impact on patient safety or quality. Adding fines when there is no harm to patients further increases the cost of health care for Californians.



**Additional penalties are not needed:** Hospitals are already inspected to assure patient safety and quality, and when violations are found, penalties are imposed based on the severity and duration of violations, including any failure to meet staffing ratios.

**The state has never assessed the effectiveness of nurse staffing ratios,** despite being required by law to do so. Nobody can say with certainty whether these 15-year-old ratios actually help patients.



Less than

## 1/500th of 1%

**Infractions are incredibly rare:** over a 10-year period through 2017, representing more than 35 million hours of hospital operations, the state found a mere 634 infractions — less than 1/500th of 1% of hospital hours, the vast majority of which posed little to no risk of patient harm.

## 15 years

after implementation, comprehensive nurse staff ratios exist **only in California.**



**For hospitals, there is no greater responsibility than protecting their patients.**

The most effective, efficient way to do this is to prevent government bureaucrats from inserting themselves into the care delivery process.

