



Committed to Care
ena.org

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Senator Maureen Walsh
205 Irv Newhouse Building
Olympia, WA, 98501

Senator Walsh,

Nurses always put their patients first.

That means – all too often – they skip breaks, meals and trips to the bathroom. While working to alleviate the pain of others, they will ignore their own to make it through their shift. Dedication and passion comes in many forms, but, in many ways, it is defined by nurses and their health care colleagues in the emergency department.

I have seen countless examples of hardworking nurses throughout my four-decade nursing career and as a proud member of the Emergency Nurses Association. As you learned in the last week, any characterization of a nurse that paints them as anything less than committed to care is immensely hurtful to every single one of those professionals who work long hours in unselfish service to others.

The time to move forward is now. Your willingness to shadow a nurse during a 12-hour shift marks a positive step away from controversy and toward understanding.

With that said, the debate over proper nurse staffing levels continues. ENA strongly encourages ED nurses and leadership to identify the most appropriate staffing that ensures patients receive the care they need, while simultaneously aiming to reduce nurse fatigue, burnout and opportunities for violence against nurses.

The ENA Board of Directors recently approved the “[Emergency Nurse Duty Hours and Patient Safety](#)” position statement which further illustrates the association’s commitment to creating the best working environment for nurses and the patients who visit the ED every day.

Just as emergency nurses devote themselves to caring for patients, ENA is driven toward building a greater understanding of their important role in communities big and small. Please consider ENA a resource for you today and in the future as you consider important health care legislation for your constituents and the state of Washington.

Thank you,

Patricia Kunz Howard, PhD, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN, NE-BC, FAEN, FAAN

2019 ENA President