

AFT Connecticut - Communications
Safe Patient Limits Campaign
Mandatory OT Legislation Message Outline

WHY PATIENT RISKS SERIOUS

- **“Nurses and health professionals taking on too many hours makes it impossible to assure patient limits, raising health and safety risks for all.”**
 - Safe patient limits means quality care and medical attention - your loved ones deserve better than being treated by strained and overworked health professionals.

WHY FIRM ON PRIORITIES

- **“The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated unsafe staffing in the healthcare industry - now is the time to prioritize safe patient limits in Connecticut.”**
 - Health networks and hospital chains must fill long-vacant positions and do more to retain current caregivers in order to assure safe patient limits for your loved ones.

WHY RESEARCH DEMANDS ACTION:

- **“Multiple studies have found negative outcomes when health chain administrators rely on mandatory overtime instead of abiding by safe patient limits.”**
 - Researchers found that laws in multiple states regulating consecutive hours worked are effective regulatory tools for achieving safe patient limits.

WHY STAFF SAFETY MATTERS

- **“Health chain administrators have long cut corners on safe patient limits by pushing for higher ratios and abused overtime to ‘save money.’”**
 - Missing from current state laws are protections against mandated overtime and requirements for safe patient limits - your loved ones deserve better.

WHY LAWMAKERS’ ACTION NEEDED

- **“Patients suffer the consequences in hospitals and health facilities where administrators push mandatory overtime and fail to require safe patient limits.”**
 - Safe patient limits help reduce nurses and health professionals’ fatigue and exhaustion, which contributes to better quality care for your loved ones.

WHY ELEVATING CAREGIVERS' CONCERNS:

- **“Nurses and health professionals are stronger when we speak with a united voice for the safe patient limits your loved ones deserve.”**
 - Our voices are louder together than they are individually - that's why we are collectively demanding safe patient limits in Connecticut's hospitals and health facilities.

TIPS FOR WRITING TESTIMONY

- Tell your own personal story about how unsafe staffing and mandatory overtime impacted actual patients
 - Do call out your employers reliance on mandatory overtime and unsafe staffing
 - Don't share patients' names or information that identifies them
- Remember to make the focus on how your patients are affected by unsafe staffing and mandatory overtime:
 - Example: *If I have 12 patients, that means I can only spend 5 minutes with each patient per hour - is that enough time if your loved one is in my care?*
- A gold star for every time you say phrases like:
 - “Safe patient limits”
 - “Patient limits save lives”
 - “Safe patient limits save lives”