

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 17**

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**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ADOPTING A PATIENT SAFE STAFFING ACT SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN HOUSE BILL 288 AND SENATE BILL 281, AS INTRODUCED DURING NEW MEXICO'S 53<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE'S FIRST SESSION, IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR SAFE NURSE STAFFING LEVELS IN HOSPITALS IN NEW MEXICO**

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**WHEREAS**, there is a strong relationship between adequate nurse to patient ratios and positive patient outcomes within hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, rising patient acuity and shortened hospital stays have contributed to diminished quality of health care; and

**WHEREAS**, finding an optimal and appropriate staffing to patient ratio within hospitals has been a national and state challenge; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Nurses Association, ensuring adequate registered nurse staffing levels within each unit of a hospital has been shown to: Reduce medical and medication errors; Decrease the frequency and severity of patient complications; Decrease mortality; Improve patient satisfaction; Reduce nurse fatigue; Decrease nurse burnout; Improve nurse retention and job satisfaction; and

**WHEREAS**, health care leaders have an opportunity to create innovative strategies to improve patient outcomes through development of optimal staffing patterns for hospitals, thereby creating a safer environment for patients and nurses; and

**WHEREAS**, staffing solutions require collaboration between hospital administrators and direct care givers to assure an appropriate number and skill mix of staff, including registered nurses, who are able to deliver safe quality patient care; and

**WHEREAS**, optimal staffing within a hospital is essential in order to provide optimal patient care; and

**WHEREAS**, innovative and collaborative strategies that focus on developing long-term solutions will improve the quality of patient care outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, many states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington, require hospitals to have staffing committees responsible for staffing plans and staffing policy; and

WHEREAS, at least 14 states currently regulate nurse staffing levels in hospitals through state law and/or regulation, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 288 and Senate Bill 281, introduced during the first session of New Mexico's 53<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, each address the need for safe nurse staffing levels in New Mexico hospitals by creating what they refer to as the Patient Safe Staffing Act which:

1. Requires hospitals to establish safe staffing levels for each hospital unit;
2. Authorizes nurses to refuse assignments that are not within the nurse's scope of practice, for which the nurse does not have the requisite education, training and skill, or which would require the nurse to abandon a patient;
3. Requires hospitals to post and report their daily hospital nursing unit patient census and staffing levels;
4. Requires the Department of Health to post on its website hospital reports;
5. Empowers the Department of Health to enforce compliance with the patient safe staffing act;
6. Requires the Department of Health to promulgate rules implementing the safe staffing act; and
7. Provides whistleblower protection to employees who file a grievance or complaint for violations of the Patient Safe Staffing Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County urges the Legislature, during New Mexico's first legislative session of 2017, to support legislation that would accomplish the objectives of HB 288 and SB 281 by creating a Patient Safe Staffing Act to address the need for safe nurse staffing levels in hospitals in New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By: [Signature]  
Henry P. Roybal, Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 2-28-2017



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

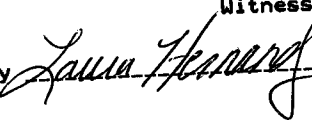
  
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Gregory S. Shaffer, Santa Fe County Attorney

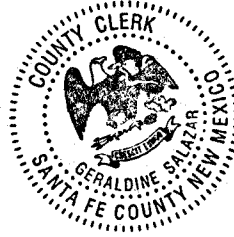
Date: 2-24-17

COUNTY OF SANTA FE            )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO        ) ss

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PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 1ST Day Of March, 2017 at 10:03:19 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1818864**  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Geraldine Salazar  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/01/2017