

SAFE STAFFING IN HOSPITALS

After years of hard work and advocacy by CWA members, the NYS legislature finally passed legislation that will improve staffing levels in our hospitals, for all staff titles, as well as provide needed transparency and accountability from healthcare facilities.

- ✓ Will improve staffing levels in our hospitals, for all staff titles, as well as provide needed transparency and accountability from healthcare facilities
- ✓ Makes staffing plans enforceable by the Department of Health.
- ✓ Plans must have 'specific guidelines or ratios, matrices or grids indicating how many patients are assigned to each RN and the number of nurses and ancillary staff to be present on each unit and shift.'
- ✓ Must develop plans with factors in mind including: coverage to ensure staff can take appropriate breaks and leaves of absences and also plans for emergencies that may lead to short staffing.
- ✓ Directs the DOH to mandate staffing ratios in intensive and critical care units.
- ✓ Requires staffing data to routinely be made publicly available to all on the Department's website.
- ✓ Allows DOH to investigate and impose stiff civil penalties against hospitals that fail to 1) form a staffing committee and create a staffing plan and 2) resolve violations of the plan.

