

## HR 2581

Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 8, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (May 9, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2581>

### Sponsor

---

**Name:** Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (56 total)

| Cosponsor                                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]              | D · OR        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]             | D · OR        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]              | D · CA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]             | D · NY        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]                  | D · TN        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]               | D · IL        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]             | D · OR        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]              | D · CT        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]              | D · MI        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]                | D · HI        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]              | D · WA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]               | D · IL        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]                   | D · CA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]                 | D · CA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]                 | D · CA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]               | D · MN        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]                   | D · WI        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]              | D · NY        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]                   | D · WI        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]                 | D · MD        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]                | D · IL        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]                | D · CA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]                 | D · CA        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]           | D · NY        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]         | D · FL        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]               | D · TX        |      | May 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1]             | D · NM        |      | May 14, 2019 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]            | D · MA        |      | May 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]                    | D · OH        |      | May 14, 2019 |
| Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]               | D · CA        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]                 | D · OH        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]              | D · ME        |      | May 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]                   | D · NV        |      | May 21, 2019 |
| Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]                    | D · CA        |      | Jun 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Gomez, Jimmy [D-CA-34]                 | D · CA        |      | Jun 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]             | D · AZ        |      | Jun 26, 2019 |
| Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]          | D · TX        |      | Jun 26, 2019 |
| Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]                | D · CA        |      | Sep 6, 2019  |
| Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]                 | D · IN        |      | Sep 26, 2019 |
| Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]           | D · CA        |      | Oct 22, 2019 |

| Cosponsor                                | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|--|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]            | D · MI        |      | Oct 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]    | D · IL        |      | Nov 1, 2019  |
| Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14] | D · NY        |      | Nov 1, 2019  |
| Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]                | D · MN        |      | Nov 1, 2019  |
| Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]              | D · CT        |      | Nov 15, 2019 |
| Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]    | D · NJ        |      | Jan 7, 2020  |
| Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]                | D · NY        |      | Jan 27, 2020 |
| Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]                | D · MI        |      | Feb 7, 2020  |
| Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]              | D · OH        |      | Feb 13, 2020 |
| Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]            | D · NY        |      | Feb 13, 2020 |
| Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]          | D · CA        |      | Feb 13, 2020 |
| Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]       | D · NY        |      | Feb 21, 2020 |
| Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]          | D · MA        |      | Jun 18, 2020 |
| Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]             | D · CA        |      | Sep 11, 2020 |
| Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]         | D · TX        |      | Oct 23, 2020 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                     | Chamber | Activity    | Date        |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Energy and Commerce Committee | House   | Referred to | May 9, 2019 |
| Ways and Means Committee      | House   | Referred To | May 8, 2019 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship   | Last Action   |
|------------|----------------|---|
| 116 S 1357 | Identical bill | <b>May 8, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. |

## **Nurse Staffing Standards for Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2019**

This bill requires hospitals to implement and submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) a staffing plan that complies with specified minimum nurse-to-patient ratios by unit. Hospitals must post a notice regarding nurse-to-patient ratios in each unit and maintain records of actual ratios for each shift in each unit. The bill also requires hospitals to follow certain procedures regarding how ratios are determined and other staff are prohibited from performing nurse functions unless specifically authorized within a state's scope of practice rules, among other requirements.

HHS must adjust Medicare payments to hospitals to cover additional costs attributable to compliance with these ratios.

Nurses may object to, or refuse to participate in, an assignment if it would violate minimum ratios or if they are not prepared by education or experience to fulfill the assignment without compromising the safety of a patient or jeopardizing their nurse's license. Hospitals may not (1) take adverse actions against a nurse based on the nurse's reasonable refusal to accept an assignment; or (2) discriminate against individuals for good faith complaints relating to the care, services, or conditions of the hospital or related facilities. HHS may impose civil monetary penalties on hospitals violating the ratio requirements and must publish the names of such hospitals.

The bill provides stipends to the nurse workforce loan repayment and scholarship program and expands the nurse retention grant program to include nurse preceptorship and mentorship projects.

### **Actions Timeline**

---

- **May 9, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 8, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **May 8, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.