

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Elaine Marzola, Chair
Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: AB 401 – Revises provisions governing schools of nursing—OPPOSE

Dear Chair Marzola and Committee Members,

The National Nurses Organizing Committee - Nevada/National Nurses United (NNOC-NV/NNU), representing 3,000+ Nevada registered nurses, opposes AB 401. AB 401 would degrade the learning experience of nursing students by increasing the maximum allowable nursing students a faculty member may supervise during clinical training from 8 nursing students to 12 nursing students. In turn, this may negatively impact both overall nursing student retention and the ability of nurses to provide high quality patient care when they become licensed nurses. Finally, AB 401 is unnecessary as current regulations already provide flexibility in the maximum number of students a faculty member may supervise. For all these reasons discussed in more detail below, NNOC-NV/NNU respectfully asks for your “No” vote when the bill comes before you in committee.

- **By increasing the number of students a faculty member may supervise, AB 401 would degrade the clinical learning experience crucial to providing quality, therapeutic patient care.**

Faculty supervision during clinical training is critical to preparing nursing students to provide safe, therapeutic care. Increasing the number of students that a faculty member may supervise would limit the faculty member’s ability to provide individualized time, attention, and feedback to nursing students. Individualized time, attention, and feedback are crucial to nursing student’s clinical competency and, in turn, their ability to provide quality, therapeutic care to patients. Moreover, adequate faculty supervision facilitates nursing students’ retention of the knowledge and clinical skills and improves their clinical competency.

- **AB 401 will reduce nursing student retention by degrading the clinical learning experience.**

Increasing the student-to-faculty ratio will exacerbate the ongoing problem of nursing student retention. Satisfying clinical experiences that include sufficient individual attention and feedback are important to meeting nursing students' needs and building their confidence in caring for patients.

- **AB 401 is unnecessary as current regulations allow flexibility in the student-to-faculty ratio.**

In addition, AB 401 would prohibit the Nevada State Board of Nursing from reducing the student-to-faculty ratio requirement, effectively substituting the opinion of legislators for the professional judgment of the nurses that constitute the Nevada State Board of Nursing. Current regulations already allow the Executive Director of the Board to waive the requirement to limit the number of nursing students a faculty member may supervise "upon a showing of good cause" (NAC 632.675). Thus, AB 401 is unnecessary.

For the foregoing reasons, NNOC-NV/NNU opposes AB 401 and respectfully asks for your "No" vote when the bill comes before you in committee. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Lemmon
Director, Southern California and Nevada
National Nurses Organizing Committee - Nevada/National Nurses United

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor