



CNA's 12 Year Campaign for Safe RN Staffing Ratios

1992-1993: The California Nurses Association sponsors AB 1445, the first legislative attempt in the U.S. to establish nurse-to-patient ratios.

1996: CNA co-sponsors Proposition 216, HMO reform ballot initiative that includes requirement that the Department of Health Services (DHS) set ratios in health care settings.

1997-1998: CNA sponsors AB 695. Bill passes the State Legislature, the first time a ratio law has ever reached a U.S. governor. Gov. Pete Wilson vetoes the bill after extensive lobbying by the hospital industry.

1999: CNA sponsors AB 394. CNA gathers over 14,000 letters in support, delivered to legislators and the governor. CNA mobilizes 2,500 RNs for mass rallies at the Capitol and the governor's office in Los Angeles. Gov. Gray Davis signs AB 394, on October 10, 1999. California is first state in the U.S. to agree to safe RN staffing standards, drawing national and international acclaim.

2000: DHS begins regulatory process. CNA develops proposal based on 22 million patient discharge records, the DRG designations and patient acuity.

2001: CNA conducts 21 Town Hall meetings across state attended by 1,000 RNs. In September, over 2,100 RNs and consumers join CNA sponsored rally and public hearing with testimony by RNs, patients and physicians to press for safe ratios, the largest gathering of RNs in California history.

2002: Governor Davis announces the proposed ratios at a press conference in Los Angeles with the CNA Board of Directors. In September the DHS issues the proposed regulations and holds. CNA brings over 500 RNs to DHS hearings in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Fresno, and submits 24,000 letters to DHS supporting CNA call for.

2003: Final regulations, with CNA proposed language to assure safe RN staffing issued. Hospital industry holds seminars to provide tips to facility administrators on how to evade full compliance with the ratio law, but fails to win further delays from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

2004: January 1, all hospitals must be in compliance with new ratios. Hospital industry continues campaign to undermine law and to seek revisions. CNA works with RNs across state to guarantee safe RN staffing ratios are monitored and enforced in California hospitals.