

WHAT ARE NURSES IN PENNSYLVANIA SAYING ABOUT MANDATORY OVERTIME?

“Several months ago I finished a night shift and was mandated 8 hours (overtime) and came back at 11 p.m. that day. After the second night, I was again mandated another 8 hours. After the third night, the boss told me I was being mandated once again. I told her I couldn’t stay; I was exhausted and my husband was home sick. The supervisor said I had to work and that I’d be fired if I refused. I was too tired to work one more hour and I turned in my keys. A security guard was mandated in my place. No one can work three 16-hour days without putting themselves or their patients at risk.”

~ *Eastern PA Nurse’s Aide*

“At the end of the day, when you go home, you feel like you didn’t do all you could for your patients.”

~ *Western PA Nurse*

“Every day you went to work not knowing if you would be mandated. It was horrible. Nurses started refusing to work overtime and were disciplined; I was written up for refusing to work 16 hours on Christmas Day. The supervisors threatened to fire people and handed out two-day suspensions, except you had to work because no one could cover your shift. There was no time to take care of patients. Finally I just quit. Someday I’ll return because I love the patients.”

~ *Northwestern PA RN*

“Accident rates double after 12 work hours, and triple after 16 work hours.”

~ *Eastern PA Nurse*

When the American Nurses Association surveyed 4,800 nurses, almost **3,400 of those surveyed** work mandatory or unplanned overtime each month – some as many as three or four times per month.

More than 2,400 nurses work up to 16 hours of overtime, and only 960 of those nurses surveyed worked no overtime. Many said they work between 40 and 60 hours a week, with the average nurse in the survey working as much as 10 hours beyond the usual 40-hour work week. Nearly 500 nurses surveyed said they worked 61 to 80 hours a week, almost every week.

And, no matter what, one fact is clear: overworked nurses cannot provide the highest quality of care for patients. I am proud to join with my colleague – and long-time mandatory overtime opponent – Rep. Dan Surra of Elk County and co-sponsor House Bill 834.

JOIN THE FIGHT AND BECOME A CITIZEN-SPONSOR – visit my Web site at www.pahouse.com/Josephs and click the “Stop Mandatory Overtime” link today. We’ll add your voice to the thousands of people who have already said “enough is enough” and stood up for our nurses and the patients they care for – patients like your loved ones.

Sincerely,



Rep. Babette Josephs