New Threat to RN Ratios
Stop the Hospital Industry/UHW-SEIU Attack

The California Hospital Association and its new partner, United Healthcare Workers West-SEIU are lobbying California lawmakers to begin a systematic dismantling of the state’s landmark law requiring minimum RN-to-patient ratios at all times.

Their excuse — California’s budget problems, even though the proposal would apply to private hospitals as well as public facilities, and despite the fact that California hospitals are making record profits — $4,463,827,667 in profits in 2010 alone.

Specifically, they want legislation to allow all California hospitals to suspend compliance during RN meals and breaks. The hospital industry has long viewed ending ratios during breaks as the key first step to overturn the entire law.

On every unit, on every shift, patient assignments would immediately double during a significant portion of that shift. A nurse responsible for 5 patients on a Med Surg unit would suddenly have to care for 10 patients.

We beat back Arnold Schwarzenegger's attack on ratios — this attack is just as serious.

Now the hospitals have a new partner, UHW-SEIU and its president Dave Regan. Instead of fighting for improved standards for his own members, Regan has negotiated concessionary contracts in hospitals for ancillary staff where CNA represents RNs, undermining contract standards for RNs. He recently signed a partnership deal with the California Hospital Association to advance the hospital industry’s agenda. Regan has been pressuring legislators to carry the proposal, and even lobbied other unions, unsuccessfully, to help him. Disgracefully, Regan said that nurses need cuts too.

What You Can Do:

- Join the Patient Advocacy Coalition for ratios and extend the ratios to every hospital in the country — www.nationalnursesunited.org/patientadvocacy
- Sign the online petition to stop the attack on life-saving patient ratios — www.nationalnursesunited.org/ratiospetition
- Talk to every RN you know, and every SEIU-represented healthcare worker, to urge them to condemn this attack and join our Patient Advocacy Coalition.

For more information on this attack on nurses and patients, talk to your labor representative or e-mail PatientAdvocacy@calnurses.org

www.calnurses.org