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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-69**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor Patti Bushee

Councilor Joseph Maestas

**A RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING SAFE NURSE STAFFING LEVELS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.**

**WHEREAS**, there is a strong relationship between adequate nurse-to-patient ratios and positive patient outcomes within hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, rising patient acuity and shortened hospital stays have contributed to diminished quality of health care; and

**WHEREAS**, finding an optimal nurse-to-patient ratio within hospitals has been a national and state challenge; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Nurses Association, ensuring adequate registered nurse staffing levels within each unit of a hospital has been shown to:

- Reduce medical and medication errors;
- Decrease the frequency and severity of patient complications;
- Decrease mortality;

- 1 • Improve patient satisfaction;
- 2 • Reduce nurse fatigue;
- 3 • Decrease nurse burnout;
- 4 • Improve nurse retention and job satisfaction; and

5 **WHEREAS**, health care leaders have an opportunity to create innovative strategies to  
6 improve patient outcomes through development of optimal staffing patterns for hospitals, thereby  
7 creating a safer environment for patients and nurses; and

8 **WHEREAS**, staffing solutions require leadership, support, and recognition to assure an  
9 appropriate number and skill mix of staff, including registered nurses, who are able to deliver safe  
10 quality patient care; and

11 **WHEREAS**, optimal staffing within a hospital is essential in order to provide optimal patient  
12 care; and

13 **WHEREAS**, innovative and collaborative strategies that focus on developing long-term  
14 solutions will improve the quality of patient care outcomes; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, the New Mexico Legislature, through House Memorial 51 charged  
16 named stakeholder groups to recommended staffing standards to the legislature and tasked the  
17 Department of Health to collect information about the hospitals that adopt standards and to report the  
18 cost of implementing an oversight program; and

19 **WHEREAS**, at a minimum Connecticut, Illinois, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and  
20 Washington require hospitals to have staffing committees responsible for plans and staffing policy;  
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, at least thirteen states currently address nurse staffing levels in hospitals  
23 through state law and/or regulation, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada,  
24 New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**

1 CITY OF SANTA FE that the Governing Body hereby:

2 1. Supports bipartisan efforts in Congress and specifically by our Congressional  
3 members, to pass H.R.1821, the Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act of 2013;

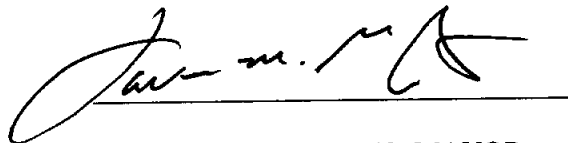
4 2. Encourages our New Mexico State Legislature to develop a state standard for quality  
5 of care through prescribed minimum nurse staffing levels, and in particular through minimum  
6 registered nurse staffing levels;

7 3. Recognizes that health care leaders have an opportunity to collaborate to create  
8 innovative strategies to develop solutions to quality of care issues resulting from current staffing  
9 patterns, in order to ensure a safer environment for patients and nurses; and

10 4. Requests that hospitals in the area consider implementing a hospital wide staffing  
11 plan developed by a nurse staffing committee (that includes nurses, nurse managers, and other  
12 managers) to address the unique characteristics of the patients and hospital units that result in the  
13 delivery of safe, quality patient care.

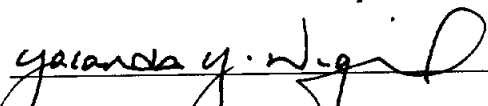
14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this  
15 resolution to the City's New Mexico Congressional Delegation, the City's State Legislative  
16 Delegation, the City's lobbyist and the executive officers of Santa Fe area hospitals.

17 PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.

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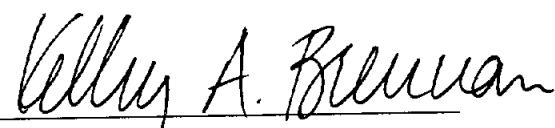
JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

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20 ATTEST:

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23 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:



KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY