

TOWN OF WEST SENECA



SHEILA M. MEEGAN  
TOWN SUPERVISOR

To: Fellow Town Board Members  
From: Sheila M. Meegan, Town Supervisor  
Date: December 14, 2015  
Re: **Resolution in Support of The Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act**

Kindly move to adopt the attached resolution in support of The Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 01548 and Senate Bill 00782 have been introduced in the 2015-2016 Legislative Session to amend Public Health Law to require all acute care facilities and nursing homes to meet standards for appropriate staffing ratios of nursing and unlicensed direct care staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment would establish minimum nurse to patient ratios based on peer-reviewed academic research and evidence-based recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment would require public disclosure of facility staffing requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, a Residential Health Care Facility Council would be established that would assist in the development and maintenance of required minimum staff hours of care per resident per day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) published research that estimated five additional deaths per thousand patients occurred in hospitals that routinely staff with a 1:8 nurse to patient ratio compared to those staffing with a 1:4 nurse to patient ratio; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) found hospitals with lower nursing and staffing levels had higher rates of pneumonia, shock, cardiac arrest, urinary tract infections and upper gastrointestinal bleeds which all led to higher cost and mortality from hospital-acquired complications; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, the West Seneca Town Board urges New York State lawmakers to support the passage of New York State Assembly Bill 01548 and Senate Bill 00782 to amend the Public Health Law in relation to enacting the "Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act" and require acute care facilities and nursing homes to implement certain direct-care nurse to patient ratios in all nursing facilities