

## Florida Lawmaker Barbara Watson Campaigns For Safe Nurse-Patient Ratios

While Nurse Griffin was a lone voice confronting Florida's Westside hospital over inadequate staffing and other related issues, Florida House of Representatives member Barbara Watson was attempting to bring forward a bill to remedy adverse nurse-patient ratios. The bill, "Florida Hospital Patient Protection Act" (HB231) is modeled on a California law that improved patient safety for California. The Florida bill was supported by SEIU, a union that represents over 1 million health care workers. The Florida bill called for a maximum ratio of 1 nurse to 2 patients on a cardiovascular ICU. Ms. Watson said: *"With an increasingly older population in southern Florida, we have a responsibility to do everything we can to provide safe healthcare during the later years."*

Yet, in May 2019, the bill was squashed for the fifth time since 2014 by a Florida Subcommittee Chair. Hospitals fiercely oppose bills like this one.