

From: Melissa Cavicchi <cavicchi5@eastlink.ca>
Sent: February-27-14 11:23 PM
To: Office
Subject: Law Amendments Committee

Hello,

My name is Melissa Cavicchi. I have been a practicing RN with CDHA on the Cardiac Surgery Unit in Halifax for the past 30 years housing a total of 33 beds of which 12 are step down IMCU. I did sign up to speak in front of the committee however, I am working the next three consecutive 12 hour day shifts and am unable to attend.

I have had and continue to have the opportunity and pleasure to care for a great number of diverse patients and work along side many fantastic nurses over these years. I have been asked over time why I have stayed on the same surgery unit for so long, it's simple, I love what I do. Post op Cardiac surgery patients require a great deal of care which can change it's acuity level in a matter of minutes. I am intuitive to these needs and work as a solid team member with many undeniable critical skills.

I am a strong advocate for my particular patient population, be it coronary artery bypass, valve repair/replacement, pacemaker insertion or Left Ventricular Assist Device (heart pump) Implantation surgery. This advocacy comes in many forms, whether it be at the bedside during direct patient care, teaching, questioning physician orders, during a cardiac arrest, etc..you get the picture. But there are other times that also require me to take it beyond the bedside. This is one. Please hear my voice now. I ask of you not to pass essential services legislation so I can continue to advocate on my patient's behalf for their best, safest care of which they are entitled. If I don't who will?

As part of this advocacy I support Home Support Workers in their wage parity and I would like to ensure the right to strike is not taken away from any group of healthcare workers.

I write in hopes that you are as passionate about healthcare and our future as I am.

Do not silence my voice with this blind act of power.

Sent from my iPad