

To: Interested Parties

From: GBAO

Date: January 31, 2023

Safe Staffing Standards: Poll Analysis

The following are key findings from a survey of 800 likely 2024 general election voters in Washington. The survey was conducted November 28-December 1, 2022 via live calls to landlines and cell phones and an online web panel. The survey carries a +/- 3.5 percentage point margin of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

- **Washington voters nearly universally hold favorable views of health care workers.** Voters strongly support health care workers and hold widely favorable views of them (85% favorable, 5% unfavorable).
- **Washingtonians support safe staffing standards.** Over three-quarters of voters support a proposal to establish safe staffing standards that protect any one nurse or health care worker from taking care of too many patients at any one time (76% favor, 16% oppose). This is an improvement from January 2022 polling, in which 67% of likely 2022 midterm voters supported safe staffing standards.
- **Clear majorities of voters in all parties favor safe staffing standards.** Support is strongest among Democrats (91% favor, 6% oppose), but safe staffing standards also earn strong support from independents (69% favor, 21% oppose) and Republicans (61% support, 29% oppose).
- **In addition to safe staffing standards, voters strongly support other measures to ensure health care workers are treated fairly.** Providing oversight to ensure that hospitals have enough staff to ensure patient and worker safety receives near-unanimous support, with 89% of voters in favor and just 8% opposed. Taking enforcement actions against hospitals that don't comply with existing rules around meal and rest breaks for workers is also very well-received (79% favor, 15% oppose).
- **Voters support safe staffing standards because they want to ensure health care workers are able to provide quality care for patients.** In an open-ended question asking voters the best reason to support the proposal, many voters say nurses will be able to provide better care for their patients and health care will improve for everyone.

