

Letter: Don't hamper nurses, vote 'No' on Question 1

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To the editor:

As a longtime Massachusetts resident, registered nurse and nursing professor, I know that it is critical that patient care decisions are made based on evidence, not on conjecture.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released *The Future of Nursing* report focusing on bedside nursing and models of optimum quality patient care. Since its release, the report has been used throughout nursing and healthcare organizations as an evidence-based blueprint for change. This report emphasized that nurses should be encouraged to use their knowledge and skills to the full extent of their licensure and not allow policies and protocols to limit their ability to make sound judgments of safe patient care.

Unfortunately, passage of Question 1 in November would further inhibit nurses to be actively involved in making decisions about the safety and welfare of their patients.

I challenge all direct care nurses, their healthcare team colleagues, and the public at large who have not yet read *The Future of Nursing* report, to do so.

Please vote "No" on Question 1 in November. Let nurses do what they do best, make sound, safe patient care decisions — today and in the future.

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