

nurse alliance

of **SEIU** Healthcare

December 5, 2013

Ingela Dahlgren, RN
Executive Director
SEIU Nurse Alliance of California
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Suite O
Camarillo, CA 93012

Dear Ingela:

On behalf of the 85,000 members of the Nurse Alliance of SEIU Healthcare, I write in support of the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers, sponsored by SEIU Local 121RN and SEIU Nurse Alliance of California.

Healthcare workers are subjected to unacceptable levels of violence in the workplace. As the most assaulted group of workers in the country, they account for nearly sixty percent of violent assaults in the workplace. A comprehensive standard on workplace violence is needed to help address the problem and to foster a culture where workplace violence is recognized as unacceptable and prevented.

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) recognize workplace violence as a hazard. While California has model workplace violence legislation (AB 1083), it is not able to adequately protect healthcare workers from violence in the workplace because enforcement of the law is outside of Cal/OSHA's jurisdiction.

Cal/OSHA has a history of approaching the issue of workplace violence proactively and progressively. Adopting a Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers is the next step in reducing workplace violence. A safer workplace for healthcare workers enables us to deliver better patient care in order to achieve the best outcomes for our patients.

In Solidarity,



Dian Palmer, RN
Chair, Nurse Alliance of SEIU Healthcare