



Richard Negri, Health and Safety Director  
Katherine Hughes, RN  
SEIU Local 121RN  
1040 Lincoln Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91103

January 24, 2014

Dear Mr. Negri and Ms. Hughes,

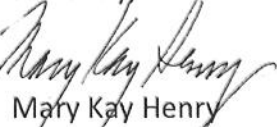
On behalf of the 2.1 million united members and the largest healthcare union in the United States, I am writing in full support of the California Safe Care Standard sponsored by SEIU Local 121RN and SEIU Nurse Alliance of California.

We know that the healthcare workers are the most assaulted workers in the nation, accounting for almost sixty percent of violent assaults on the job. We also know that too often SEIU members are told that violence at work is "part of the job." We believe that a comprehensive standard on workplace violence prevention will help to change this "part of the job" culture our members deal with.

Both OSHA and Cal/OSHA recognize workplace violence as a hazard. We affirm OSHA's mandate that employers "shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employments which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are more likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees" (29 USC 654, Section 5, "Duties"). While California has model workplace violence prevention legislation (AB 1083), it does not adequately protect healthcare workers from violence that occurs in their workplaces because enforcement of the law is outside of Cal/OSHA's jurisdiction.

According to OSHA, more workers are injured in the healthcare and social assistance sectors than in any other sector. By contrast, two of the most hazardous industries – agriculture and construction – are safer today than the healthcare industry.

SEIU knows that Cal/OSHA has historically done what it could to go above and beyond the Federal OSHA Act and believes that adoption of this Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers will continue the progressive approach on behalf of workers that Cal/OSHA has maintained through the forty years of its existence.

Sincerely,  
  
Mary Kay Henry  
International President

MARY KAY HENRY  
International President

MICHAEL P. FISHMAN  
International Secretary-Treasurer

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