



An Affiliate of ANA

To Whom it Concerns:

I am writing on behalf of the American Nurses Association\California in support of the Cal/OSHA workplace violence prevention standard for healthcare workers, sponsored by SEIU Local 121RN and SEIU Nurse Alliance of California.

The statistics on workplace violence in the healthcare industry are staggering. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), healthcare and social assistance workers are the most assaulted workers in the nation, accounting for almost 60 percent of violent assaults in the workplace. Those numbers are just the cases that were reported; the BLS estimates many more incidents go unreported each year.

Behind the numbers are real people working in the fastest growing industry in the U.S. – doctors, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, technicians, support staff, custodians, and everyone else who works in healthcare – whose lives are changed forever by the violence they experience on the job.

As an organization advocating on behalf of registered nurses and patient care in the state of California, ANA\C is deeply concerned with the pandemic of workplace violence that nurses and other healthcare workers face on a daily basis. When healthcare workers go to their jobs with the fear of being assaulted – physically, emotionally, verbally, or sexually – not only do they suffer, but their families, their employers, and their patients suffer as well.

There is a culture that is perpetuated in the healthcare industry that violence at work is “part of the job.” This Cal/OSHA standard will be instrumental in starting to change that culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tricia Hunter'.

Hon. Tricia Hunter, RN, MN  
Executive Director and Lobbyist