



Committee of Interns and Residents

SEIUHealthcare®

Katherine Hughes RN
Richard Negri
SEIU Local 121RN
1040 Lincoln Avenue
Pasadena CA 91103

March 17, 2014

Dear Ms. Hughes and Mr. Negri:

Please accept this letter of support for the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers sponsored by SEIU Local 121RN and the SEIU Nurse Alliance of California.

We are writing on behalf of the Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare, a national union of 13,000 resident physicians, with 2,700 members working in California teaching hospitals.

We believe passage of a CalOSHA standard is a necessary and critical step to ensure that the prevention of workplace violence is given the serious attention it deserves. Our work – and the work of our health care colleagues -- is demanding and stressful enough without having to worry about our personal safety.

In a 2013 white paper¹ published by the National Patient Safety Foundation, the authors concluded that “Workplace safety is inextricably linked to patient safety. Unless caregivers are given the protection, respect and support they need, they are more likely to make errors, fail to follow safe practices and not work well in teams.”

We view the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers as a win-win for patients, their families, our resident physician members and all California health care workers.

Sincerely,

Sepideh Sedgh, DO
President, Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU

Daniel Shepherd, MD
Northern California Vice-President
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare

Joanne Suh, MD
Southern California Vice-President
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare

¹ *Through the Eyes of the Workforce: Creating Joy, Meaning and Safer Health Care*, Lucian Leape Institute of the National Patient Safety Foundation, 2013.