



UNAC/UHCP

United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals

UNAC/UHCP is affiliated with NUHHCE, AFSCME and the AFL-CIO

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February 18, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Hughes and Mr. Negri

On behalf of more than 22,000 Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Optometrists, Midwives, Physical, Occupational and Recreation Therapists and other health care professionals who are members of UNAC/UHCP, I write in support of the much-needed Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers, sponsored by SEIU Local 121RN and SEIU Nurse Alliance of California.

We commonly think of nurses and health care professionals as benevolent and well-loved by all. So we may not realize how often they face assaults in the workplace. But in fact, they are the most assaulted group of workers in the country, accounting for nearly sixty percent of violent assaults on the job. All of us who have ever been patients know the important work done by nurses and health care professionals, so we can all understand how necessary it is to address this problem with a comprehensive and enforceable standard on workplace violence.

Cal/OSHA too has always done work vital to keeping us all safe and healthy. California has model workplace violence prevention legislation. However, it does not adequately protect health care workers from violence in the workplace, because enforcement of the law is outside Cal/OSHA's jurisdiction. Therefore, adopting a Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers is the logical next step in reducing workplace violence and continuing to fulfill Cal/OSHA's mission.

Caring for patients is a sacred calling for nurses and health care workers. If our workplaces are made safer, this only allows us to better live out that calling, by enabling us to deliver better care. We want to send every patient home safe and healthy to their loved ones. We want to be able to return home to our own loved ones, each day, safe and healthy as well.

In Solidarity,

Ken Deitz, RN

President, United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals