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Assembly
California Legislature

Dr. Richard Pan
Assemblymember, Ninth District

March 13, 2014

Committees
Health, *Chair*
Agriculture
Appropriations
Revenue and Taxation

David Thomas, Board Chair
Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board
2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 350
Sacramento, California 95833

Dear Chairman Thomas and Members of the Board:

On behalf of SEIU California's over 700,000 workers, I am writing in full support of the Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Healthcare Workers. Healthcare workers are the most assaulted workers in the nation, accounting for almost sixty percent of violent assaults in the workplace. We believe that a comprehensive standard on workplace violence will help to change the culture in the healthcare industry.

On February 20th I collaborated with more than 16 nurses and healthcare workers from SEIU and UNAC/UHCP to testify on behalf of Workplace Violence Prevention and the petition.

Both OSHA and Cal/OSHA recognize workplace violence as a hazard. I affirm OSHA's mandate that employers "shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are 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.

We know that Cal/OSHA has historically done what it could to go above and beyond federal OSH Act and believe that adoption of this Workplace Violence Prevention Standard for Health Care Workers will continue the progressive and proactive approach on behalf of workers that Cal/OSHA has maintained throughout the forty years of its existence.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember, Ninth District
