



Health Professionals and Allied Employees
110 Kinderkamack Road
Emerson, NJ 07630
201-262-5005
www.hpae.org

September 10, 2012

Hon. Matthew E. Baker
108 Ryan Office Building
PO Box 202068
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2068

Dear Representative Baker:

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 1992, the Health Care Facilities Workplace Violence Prevention Act, on behalf of the Registered Nurses and technicians represented in the Philadelphia area by the Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE), a health care union representing 12,000 nurses and healthcare workers in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

This law would require Pennsylvania hospitals and other health care facilities to take proactive steps to protect nurses and other health care workers from suffering from violence on the job. The costs of workplace violence in healthcare settings have been well-documented – the high costs to workers in injuries, lost time and medical care; those same costs impact our entire health care system. And, because our patients are in the same environment, the risks of violence in healthcare facilities affect our patients' safety as well.

In NJ, we have written into law the requirement that health care facilities develop violence prevention plans and policies. The essential elements in our NJ law are also in HB 1992: the involvement of front-line workers in annual risk assessment and prevention plans; the identification of specific workplace risks and remedies; employee training; reports on incidents; and a ban on retaliation for workers who report incidents.

We believe our law is working because of these elements, and because of the accountability in the law. Workers feel freer to report incidents, and violence prevention plans truly reflect the risks faced by workers everyday. We urge you to pass House Bill 1992, requiring each health facility to develop a plan to address its own risk factors, making health care workplaces safer for workers, patients and visitors.

Sincerely,

Ann Twomey
HPAE President