IT'S NOT PART OF THE JOB

STOP: WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Wisconsin's current State Statute Chapter 940.20 Battery: special circumstances provide penalties for battery to an emergency department employee resulting in a Level H Felony which can be a \$10,000 fine and/or six years of incarceration.

Battery is defined as intentionally causing bodily harm or threatens to cause harm.

Data shows that nurses are victims of battery beyond the emergency room. Practice settings where assaults are taking place include the following:

- other units of the hospital
- nursing homes
- psychiatric facilities
- outpatient
- schools

The preliminary results of a survey indicate that nurses are being subjected to

- Physical assault: punched, bitten, kicked, stabbed, and/or hit.
- Verbal assault: name calling, swearing, threats, and/or intimidation.
- Sexual assault: actual assault, harassed with sexual language and/or innuendos.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE PART OF THE JOB FOR A NURSE.

SOLUTION: Amend State Statue Chapter 940.20 to include all registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and those workers that are supervised by the RN regardless of their work setting.

By amending 940.20 employers of nurses can put service notice to the public that physical, verbal or sexual assault will not be tolerated.

