

Background

Workplace Violence Legislation Alert!
Contact your legislator today and ask that they sign-on as a co-sponsor
to LRB 2300/P1 and LRB-2384/1

Deadline March 22, 2019

Dear Colleague,

This proposed legislation creates a criminal penalty, Level H Felony, for those individuals who commit battery against a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Registered Nurse (RN) or a person who is working under the supervision of a LPN or RN. The criminal penalty for committing a Level H Felony is a monetary fine of up to \$10,000 and/or six years of incarceration. Currently a Level H Felony only applies to nurses and other staff that work in the emergency department of a hospital. WNA believes it is time that this penalty be expanded to all settings where nurses work.

When passed, this legislation will provide a tool that nurses and employers can use to deter potential workplace violence situations by informing patients and visitors that it is a felony to batter a nurse. This legislative proposal will also increase the public's awareness about the issue of workplace violence against nurses. WNA realizes that this is one of the possible tools that can be used to address potential or actual workplace violence. All nurses need education and training on deterrence techniques and safety strategies.

We have **achieved the first step** in moving toward passage of Workplace Violence against Nurses legislation. Five legislators have come forward to be the authors of the legislation. The Senate author is Senator Dale Kooyenga of the 5th Senate District. The following four State Representatives are co-authors, Gae Magnafici from the 28th Assembly District, Cindi Duchow from the 99th Assembly District, Paul Tittl from the 25th Assembly District and Mike Kuglitsch from the 84th Assembly District.

These authors have sent a letter to all Wisconsin legislators asking that they sign-on as a co-sponsor.

We need your help in accomplishing step two! We need a critical mass of legislators to sign-on as co-sponsors. Please contact your senate and assembly representatives asking them to sign-on as a co-sponsor LRB 2300/P1 and LRB-2384/1 . The more legislators that commit to signing on during this phase, the better the chances we have for the bill being passed.

WNA has made this process easy for you

1. We provided the name, email and phone number of your legislator.
2. We developed FAQs about the legislation and other information.
3. We have developed a sample email message and a script if you are going to call.
4. All you need to do is include your personal experience as either a witness or victim of workplace violence.
5. Other information available for you: The legislative draft LRB 2300/P1, talking points and a graphic.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact gina@wisconsinnurses.org