



Workplace Violence Prevention

Nurses are experiencing violence ranging from death threats and sexual harassment to kicking and punching from patients and their visitors at an alarming and unconscionable rate. Too often nurses are asked not to report the incident or are told by law enforcement that no serious action can be taken against the aggressor. Meanwhile, many hospitals refuse to take action to increase security or staffing requests and there is little data available to the public about the rates of these incidences in Minnesota's hospitals.

SUPPORT THE ABILITY FOR NURSES TO REPORT INCIDENCES OF VIOLENCE

MNA supports the creation and management of an electronic database that allows nurses to self-report incidences of violence and when they make requests for additional staffing or security. The database would make this data available to the public so that citizens, lawmakers, and others understand the magnitude of the problem nurses face every day and are able to consider if when making decisions about their healthcare facilities.

- *To get at the root of this problem, **we must have a better system for tracking incidences of violence and provide that data to lawmakers and other stakeholders.***
- ***Creating an electronic database that allows nurses to self-report incidences of violence in the workplace and when requests for additional security and staffing go unmet holds hospitals more accountable for the safety of nurses and staff.***

PROTECT NURSES IN HOSPITALS: SUPPORT HF 421/SF 541 (Grossel/Housley)

The Minnesota Nurses Association supports equalizing penalties for assaulting a healthcare worker in any unit within a hospital as a way to deter future assaults.

- *This bill would equalize penalties for assaulting a healthcare worker throughout the entire hospital.*
- *Minnesota nurses are **skilled professionals** who know the difference between someone who intentionally commits assault and a patient experiencing mental health issues, suffering from dementia, or reacting to medication.*
- *This bill is for the **very rare** circumstances in which a healthcare worker wants to pursue charges but is currently **denied access** to the judicial system.*
- *Nurses are standing up to say **violence against healthcare workers is not acceptable** and this bill is meant to deter future assaults.*