



March 31, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-107, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
House Republican Whip
United States House of Representatives
H-148, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Republican Leader McCarthy, and Republican Whip Scalise:

On behalf of the 51 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) we urge you to support the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195) and bring this vital piece of legislation to the House floor for a vote. This bipartisan effort overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives in 2019 after going through the committee process and regular order. We have witnessed that support continue during this Congress as demonstrated when H.R. 1195 advanced out of the House Education and Labor Committee in a bipartisan manner. Given the importance of this issue and the need to address workplace violence, especially for our nation's nursing workforce, we strongly encourage you to bring H.R. 1195 up for a vote today.

The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers. Nurses and health care practitioners are among the professions with the highest rates of workplace violence, which is a growing concern for our providers and public health. In 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 73% of all nonfatal workplace incidents due to violence were among the health care workforce.² In fact, those working in health care and social services are five times more likely to suffer workplace violence than other professions.³ Currently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have longstanding voluntary guidance. However, that is not solving the problem. H.R.1195, would work to address the startling realities of workplace violence by directing OSHA to put forth enforceable safety standards.

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (April 2020). Fact Sheet, Workplace Violence in Healthcare, 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/workplace-violence-healthcare-2018.htm>

³ Ibid

Addressing workplace violence, especially for our nation’s nurses and APRNs who remain on the frontlines of health care delivery in this country, is imperative. Therefore, we urge you to bring the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1195) to the House floor for a vote. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition’s Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National League for Nursing

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

CC:
Representative Joe Courtney