Dear [Elective Official’s name],

I hope this message finds you well. As one of your constituents and a registered nurse specializing in perianesthesia nursing, I am writing to urge your support for legislation that protects all healthcare workers against workplace violence.

Workplace violence has worsened over the past 15 years, making healthcare one of the most dangerous professions. In 2020, data revealed 10.3 out of every 10,000 healthcare workers experience workplace violence, compared to 2.9 per 10,000 in the general workforce.1 According to the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, 22 simple assaults occur per 100 hospital beds every day in the U.S.2 A recent study in *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* found that 78.2% of perioperative workers have experienced workplace violence.3

[Share your personal story here if applicable]

Workplace violence widely affects our community. Healthcare workers are leaving their professions due to unsafe conditions, leading to staff shortages, poor patient outcomes, and increased healthcare costs.

Many states have existing legislation addressing healthcare worker violence as a misdemeanor, while in other states, it is classified as a felony. We need consistent and strong legal consequences across all states.

**I strongly request your support for these policy measures:**

1. **Support Federal** [**HB2663/S1176**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2663?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22HR+2663%22%7D&s=1&r=1)**:** This bill directs OSHA to “develop and enforce specific standards for health care and social service employers to hold them accountable for protecting their employees.”
2. **Support The Joint Commission’s Workplace Violence Prevention Standards for Hospitals:** Address barriers to nurses and other healthcare workers reporting violence and abuse and strengthen 'zero-tolerance' policies with defined penalties.
3. **Strengthen Penalties and Reporting Laws:** Ensure consistent and severe penalties across all states and make it easier for healthcare workers to report incidents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your name and credentials]

**References**

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Extent of the problem. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Updated May 16, 2024. Accessed January 22, 2025. <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/WPVHC/Nurses/Course/Slide/Unit1_6#:~:text=Regardless%20of%20these%20differences%2C%20most%20studies%20show,workplace%20violence%20compared%20to%20most%20other%20professions.&text=In%202020%2C%20health%20care%20and%20social%20assistance,assaults%20and%20violent%20acts%20by%20other%20persons>

2. International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety. IAHSS Foundation releases findings from US healthcare crime survey. Updated November 30, 2023. Accessed January 22, 2025. <https://www.iahss.org/news/659081/IAHSS-Foundation-Releases-Findings-from-US-Healthcare-Crime-Survey.htm>

3. Lin DM, Laine-Fall MB, Lea JA, et al. Workplace violence in the perioperative environment. *JCH*. 2024. 50(11):764-774. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcjq.2024.07.010>