

**Lori Chovanak**

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**From:** Lori Chovanak  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:31 PM  
**To:** Lori Chovanak  
**Subject:** FW: SOS!! HELP!!

**From:** Corinne Pederson [<mailto:mscp Pederson@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:36 AM  
**To:** Robin Haux  
**Subject:** Re: SOS!! HELP!!

I believe this bill should be passed for several reasons.

Our facility requires BOTH Names-first and last name- on our badges. It is not a far stretch for a disgruntled patient to find our home address and phone number to harass us or do bodily harm.

We as RNs in the hospital setting care for ALL kinds of patients. Some who do not want to be there. Some who came into the hospital because of violent behavior either in the ED or in the community. These people are a danger not only to themselves but us as caregivers as well. These people should be prosecuted when they deliberately injure a health care person.

I know of no nurse who would prosecute the grandma or grandpa with diminished capacity that scratches or hits at the nurse or health care person. These are not the people we are talking about.

I'm talking about the people who know what they are doing and act out. Currently they know there is no legal repercussion. They can hit, spit, kick, bite, scratch or anything else they can think of to the health care provider. For those of us who become seriously injured because of these acts, we should have legal recourse. We are here to help them. We should not be seriously injured in the process.

They need to be held accountable for their actions.

Finally, we are the same as Firefighters and Police Officers. We are here in the community to provide help to those who need it. We have no choice but to care for that person, we cannot walk away. Therefore we should be protected by the law against acts of violence.

Nurses who work in the prison/mental health areas particularly need this protection. Currently, the inmate is not concerned with what will happen if they get mad and attack a nurse or health care provider. This is wrong, they were held accountable for their actions outside of the facility, they should be held accountable for their actions while incarcerated as well. The two RNs that were attacked recently will probably NEVER work again. They have serious injuries. All of us as nurses feel their pain and want something in place to protect us according to the law.