



Montana Nurses Association

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SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 1

Date: 2/23/15

Bill No. SB 352



February 22, 2015

Chairman Sales and Senate Judiciary committee members:

Workplace violence is one of the most complex and dangerous occupational hazards facing nurses working in today's health care environment. The complexities arise, in part, from a health care culture resistant to the notion that health care providers are at risk for patient-related violence combined with complacency that violence (if it exists) "is part of the job." **The dangers arise from the exposure to violent individuals combined with the absence of strong violence prevention programs and protective regulations.**

Even though health care workers may be exposed to four types of violence in the course of their work (see box 1), the overwhelming majority of threats and assaults against caregivers come from patients (Type II), justifying emphasis on this type of violence. Individual nurses and direct care providers have very little influence over the level of violence in their workplaces, but through collective action are poised to influence policies designed to protect the health care workforce.

Citation: McPhaul, K., Lipscomb, J., (September 30, 2004). "Workplace Violence in Health Care: Recognized but not Regulated". *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*. Vol. 9 No. 3, Manuscript 6. Available: www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/Volume92004/No3Sept04/ViolenceinHealthCare.aspx