**New Workplace Violence Op-Ed Frame**

1. We (the \_\_\_\_ nurses and healthcare workers of \_\_\_\_) were very happy that the House of Representatives passed the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act passed the House of Representatives on a bi-partisan basis. We call on the Senate to pass their version of the bill, S. 851 to protect healthcare and social service workers from assaults in the workplace.

1. This is a priority for our members—people who work in healthcare and social services are nearly five times more likely to be assaulted at work as the rest of the labor force according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. They experience 71 percent of the reported injuries from workplace violence—and these are only the injuries that are reported. For too long, nurses and others have been told being hit, kicked, etc. is part of the job.
   1. This is a problem in all kinds of settings, but the highest risk is for people who work in emergency rooms, psychiatric and substance use treatment, and long-term residential treatment facilities
   2. We take this problem seriously—we have members who have been seriously hurt and/or suffer from (PTSD, brain injuries, loss of career, etc.)
2. The bill will require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to develop a standard to protect healthcare and social service workers. With an enforceable OSHA standard, healthcare and social service employers will be required to develop safety prevention programs in collaboration with frontline workers. Employers will need to assess the risk of violence in their facilities, develop solutions based on those needs, and improve training for staff. The Government Accountability Office has found evidence that these programs can reduce the number and severity of workplace assaults.
3. It is imperative for the Senate to pass the bill. The problem is getting worse. The rate of injuries from assaults rose by 143 percent in hospitals, 149 percent in psychiatric and substance use facilities and 151 percent in social service settings between 2008 and 2018.
   1. OSHA agreed to create a new standard nearly three years ago, but no progress has been made. Without Congressional action, it can take years or even decades for OSHA to finalize a standard.
   2. Some states have begun to address the issue, but the vast majority of nurses, healthcare workers and social service workers have no protection because employers are not required to develop prevention programs for a common problem that is getting worse.
   3. Patients and workers will benefit. When nurses and healthcare workers are endangered, so are the patients.
   4. The people who provide care deserve a safe and welcoming workplace. Workplace violence should not be part of the job. Prevention is possible.