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Nevada Organization
NONL
of Nurse Leaders
5250 Neil Road, Suite 302
Reno, NV 89502

FEB 07 2003

February 3, 2003

Assemblyman John Ocegura
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

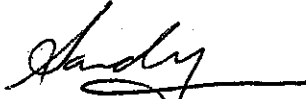
Dear Mr. Ocegura:

Thank you for supporting the healthcare workers of Nevada.

Enclosed is additional information about abuse against healthcare workers,
together with a copy of a letter of support from Mr. Bill Welch, President &
CEO of Nevada Hospital Association.

Thanks, again, for your help.

Sincerely,



Sandra K. Rush
President

SKR:ev
encls.



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Reno, NV 89533
Telephone: (775) 747-2333
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www.nvnurses.org

February 7, 2003

The Honorable Joe Ocegüera
Nevada State Assembly
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Dear Assemblyman Ocegüera,

Please accept this letter in strong support of BDR 15-826 to enhance the criminal penalty for committing an assault upon a provider of health care.

Recent research suggests that workplace abuse of health care professionals, specifically nurses, is a common and widespread problem. A recent survey of nurses in seven Western states, revealed that nearly one in three nurses surveyed had been a victim of a workplace violence incident in the preceding year. Most of these nurses had been assaulted by a patient, a patient's family member, or a coworker.

Injury surveillance conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Division of Safety Research, indicates that from 1980-1995, homicide was the third leading cause of death at the workplace and as early as 1991, 20 nurses had died from gunshot wounds sustained in the line of duty. There is compelling evidence that violence in the nursing workplace is steadily increasing. On April 9, 2001, nurse Alda Ellington, 47, was on duty in a Florida hospital when she was attacked and killed by a patient. On February 26, 2001, nurse Bernadette Moreno, 27, was killed by a patient's estranged husband while on duty in a Finegayan, Guam clinic. Closer to home, on October 28, 2002, University of Arizona professors Robin Rogers, 50; Barbara Monroe, 45; and Cheryl McGaffic, 44 were shot and killed by a disgruntled student. While she was not physically injured, Nevada nurse and Nevada Nurses Association member, Mary Koithan was a witness to this terrible tragedy. Certainly, the psychological effects of that terrible day will be with her always.

The aforementioned cases, however, capture only the most egregious cases of workplace violence and the majority are much more subtle and do not make news headlines. Working in a health care facility is considered to be the third most dangerous job in the United States and workplace violence takes a high toll on victims of assaults, and on their coworkers. Often, follow-up counseling is necessary as posttraumatic emotional stress is often a more debilitating problem for workers than are the physical injuries. In the end, when a health care worker's health suffers, so does productivity. In this time of a critical shortage of qualified nursing personnel, we cannot continue to lose these precious societal assets to senseless acts of violence.

On behalf of the nurses of Nevada, I thank you for your attention to this important issue and stand ready to assist in the passage of legislation to add health care workers to the list of occupations for which there is an enhanced criminal penalty enforceable when the health care worker has become the victim of a workplace assault.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Black".

Lisa Black, BSN, RN
Executive Director
Nevada Nurses Association

cc: Sandra Rush, Nevada Organization of Nurse Leaders



5250 Neil Road • Suite 302 • Reno, NV 89502
775-827-0184 • Fax 775-827-0190

January 15, 2003

Sandra Rush
President
Nevada Organization of Nurse Leaders
c/o St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
3001 St. Rose Parkway
Henderson, NV 89052

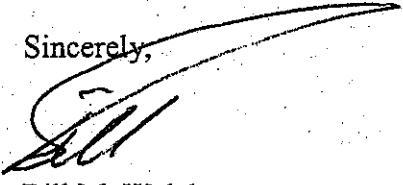
Dear Ms. Rush:

On behalf of the Nevada Hospital Association, I am pleased to send you my letter of support on your efforts to enhance the criminal penalties for an assault on health care workers in Nevada.

There are numerous documented studies from governmental and health care entities such as the Occupational Safety and Health Care Administration, Journal of Healthcare Protection Management and Bureau of Labor Statistics, among others, that report hospitals and health care facilities are amongst the most dangerous places to work in America. Given the continuing battle we face on the severe nursing shortage in Nevada, this is one area we can improve to recruit and retain nurses who are dedicated to saving lives so they can work in a safe environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need further assistance. I can be reached at (775) 827-0184.

Sincerely,


Bill M. Welch
President & CEO

BMW/el

cc: Cathy Dinauer, Carson-Tahoe Hospital
Doreen Begley, NHA Nurse Executive



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naswnv@worldnet.att.net

February 20, 2003

Assemblyman John Ocegura

Nevada State Assembly

401 South Carson Street

Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Assembly Ocegura;

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – Nevada Chapter strongly supports AB53, your bill that will enhance the criminal penalty for an assault against a health care provider. **NASW-Nevada encourages members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee to vote "YES on AB53."**

One of our legislative priorities is to take a leadership role in advancing the social work profession. AB53 will help protect medical and mental health social workers while they are performing their duties.

Social work professionals join other health care professionals on the front lines in our hospitals and mental health facilities. They are trained and skilled at handling challenging situations and treating people with dignity and respect. Yet, they are occasionally vulnerable and deserve our protection.

John, thank you again for including social work professionals in the list of health care providers covered by AB 53. Do not hesitate to call or e-mail if there is anything that Bobbie Gang, our professional lobbyist, or I can do to help pass this bill. Ms. Gang can be reached through the lobbyist room or on her cell phone, (702) 498-1383. You are also welcomed to reach me at either (800) 679-6279 or (702) 525-6031.

Please include this letter of support in the public record during the committee hearing.

Sincerely;

Executive Director



FOUNDATION

**NEVADA
RURAL
HOSPITAL
PARTNERS
FOUNDATION**

*An alliance of
rural hospitals*

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Robin Keith
President

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Associate Member

Carson Valley Medical Center
Gardnerville, Nevada

February 20, 2003

Assemblyman John Ocegüera
c/o Nevada Assembly
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Assemblyman Ocegüera:

On behalf of the membership of the Nevada Rural Hospital Partners Foundation, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Assembly Bill 53. Health care providers risk their lives daily in many ways. Assault of healthcare providers does occur and adding them to the list of those covered by NRS 200.471 helps to protect these precious human resources. NRHP Foundation member facilities employ approximately 2,000 people and we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Keith
President

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