



Testimony House Bill 1121 – IN SUPPORT  
Judiciary Committee  
Sixty-Eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Dear Chairman Klemin, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a Registered Nurse of almost twenty-four years in North Dakota and the Executive Director of the North Dakota (NDNA) Nurses Association, I am writing to you in support of HB 1121, relating to assault on a health care facility employee.

The mission of the North Dakota Nurses Association is specific to nurses and that is to advance the nursing profession by promoting professional development of nurses, fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the safety and well-being of nurses in the workplace, and by advocating on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

While workplace violence is not uncommon, *it is 5 times more prevalent in the health care industry*. Violence against health care workers has worsened during the pandemic. In a recent 2022 survey of 2,500 hospital nurses, 48% reported having experienced violence in the workplace, a *31% increase since just last year*. Although anyone working in a hospital or health care facility may become a victim of violence, nurses and other staff directly involved in patient care are at higher risk.

NDNA is a constituent state of the American Nurses Association (ANA), and their position statement reads, "a safe work environment promotes physical and psychological well-being. If members of the health care team do not feel safe, the work environment is left vulnerable, and everyone's safety is compromised."

Amending the current statute in the North Dakota Century Code is an important protection for all health care workers (whatever setting they are working in), including the nurses we represent. We respectfully urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sherri Miller, BSN, RN  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Nurses Association