

House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Lawrence Klemin, Chair
Jan. 28, 2025
HB1341

Good morning, Chairman Klemin and members of the committee. My name is Reece Floyd and I have been a CNA since 2020 and am a current nursing student, on track to graduate in the spring of 2026.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony in **support** of HB 1341.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity of working as a CNA on a Medical Surgical floor specializing in Orthopedics. On my first shift by myself, on my new unit, I had a patient who had come in for a standard hip replacement. Everything was going fine; we had a good relationship, they had verbalized many times that all of their needs were met and that they were very satisfied with their care. We reviewed the schedule for the next day, which included an early wake-up to get prepared for the doctors, PT, and OT to round in the morning in order to have them discharged by 1200. This patient had confirmed with me that they were okay with the schedule and ready to go home. Well, things changed around 0600 the following day. When I got them out of bed and into their recliner, they stated they were hungry. I informed them our cafeteria was not yet open and that their food would be delivered first at 0700 because they were an ortho patient, but I would be happy to grab them a snack to tide them over. The patient then proceeded to tell me that I “cared more about cleaning the room” than I cared about them. I stated that was not true and that I was sorry for the inconvenience of the cafeteria and that we would do our best to get their breakfast to them as soon as we could. The patient then proceeded to slam their recliner down with their legs, stood up, tearing off their wound vac in the process, grabbed a book off of the bedside table and threw it at me, striking me in the left arm.

They then grabbed their water cup and threw that at me as well. They began to yell many horrible words, actually swearing at me, and lunged forwards, trying to grab me as I exited the room. They continued, shouting that I was the worst CNA in the world and they hoped they would “never see my ugly face again” and that I should be fired. I filled out the required form about the incident and when I asked what the consequences would be for this patient, I was told that there would be a note made in the patient’s chart. That is all. Literally no repercussions for this assault.

I cried the entire drive home and almost didn’t go back to work. I had just completed my first semester of nursing school and tried to reason through if it was worth it for me to continue in school, knowing this was the behavior that was allowed in our healthcare facilities with no punishment or correction.

This is just one of the many violent situations I have experienced in my short 5 year career. I have seen my coworkers and bosses go through similar occurrences, many of them being a lot worse. I have seen wonderful nurses, CNA’s, LPN’s, and so many more choose to walk away from their careers because they are tired of no one standing up for them at work. We shouldn’t have to be scared to enter a patient’s room because we allow verbal and physical violence with no consequences. Patients continue to stay on the floors where our coworkers, who just got beat up and emotionally abused, and we have to continue working like nothing happened.

I wanted to write this to you today to ask for help for our healthcare workers; for myself, and my amazing classmates, and so many more people who don’t have the opportunity to speak up out of fear or retribution. We need reassurance that our lives are just as important as our work. We hope to feel supported and protected so we can do our jobs efficiently and continue to care for our patients the best way we can.

I thank you all for taking the time to hear my story and for your consideration. I appreciate everything you do for myself and our community!

Please feel free to reach out to me with any other questions.

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