

February 27, 2020

Re: Labor and Employment – Health Care Facilities – Workplace Safety Program- Revisions

To: The Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing in support of Delegate Cox's House Bill 612. My name is Teresa McHugh, and I practiced as an RN in a private hospital facility in the State of Maryland from 1979 to 1991, and a Federal Government hospital facility in the State of Maryland from 1991 to 2016. I feel that it is of the utmost importance for a health care facility to guarantee that health care workers are provided the safest workplace possible. From my experience as a practicing RN, health care workers are exposed to physical assault and threatening behavior from patients on a regular basis in the workplace. These incidences occur randomly and without warning, and healthcare workers are not able to defend themselves. There should be a process in place whereby these assault incidences and threatening behavior are immediately reported, documented, and addressed by the health care facility, in order to protect the healthcare worker. Also, the healthcare worker should be able to elect to not care for an individual who has assaulted or exhibited threatening behavior toward that healthcare worker. This process would greatly contribute to workplace safety. For these reasons, I am in support of Delegate Cox's House Bill 612. Thank you for addressing this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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Teresa McHugh

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