



Maryland State Council
Safe Practice Safe Care

To: Maryland House Judiciary Committee 2021
House Office Building, Room 101
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From: Maryland State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association

Date: January 14, 2020

Re: Maryland Emergency Nurses Association requests a FAVORABLE vote on
House Bill 289- Peace Orders – Workplace Violence

Good day Chairman Clippinger, and members of the Maryland House Judiciary
Committee,

My name is Lisa Tenney and I am testifying on behalf of The Maryland State
Council of the Emergency Nurses Association. We would like to thank Vice-Chair

Atterbeary for sponsoring HB 289 – Peace Orders- Workplace Violence, again this year, and to this committee for giving it a favorable review and passing it in the House last year. This is a powerful piece of legislation for emergency nurses that will allow an employer to obtain a peace order to protect employees when violence occurs in the workplace. We especially like that this bill because:

- It requires the employer to notify the employee before filing a peace order
- It provides immunity for the employer for filing the peace order
- It prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee who was involved in the reason for the peace order
- It does not mandate that the employer file a peace order

Imagine that I am on duty in the Emergency Room (ER) and a patient does not like the fact that I am discharging her with a prescription for a non-opioid drug, instead of a prescription for an opioid drug she came to the ER to get.

Imagine that as I try to give her discharge instructions, she unexpectedly attacks me and punches me in the face and head, resulting in an eye injury, and a severe concussion. Imagine that while she is assaulting me, she screams, ***“You better watch out you (expletive), because I’m gonna kill you. And make sure that (expletive) doctor knows that I’m coming after him, too!”***

This happened to a Maryland Emergency Nurse this past year. Imagine the solace it would have given her and her colleagues if their employer could have filed a peace order against this patient to protect them and their innocent patients from possible further violence from this patient. Right now, employers do not have this tool in their workplace violence prevention toolbox. Your favorable vote will put it there.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tenney

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