

Good afternoon, my name is Michelle O'Dell, **Masters educated RN**, and hospital supervisor at Frederick Health Hospital with 30 years' **of nursing** experience.

I'd like to start by thanking the delegates for the opportunity to speak on behalf **and in support** of Senate Bill 298 and its importance of impacting health care systems across the state

I have personally encountered physical abuse while working, to include: being kicked in the stomach when I was pregnant, scratched and spit on. I've been threatened, intimidated, bullied, harassed, and verbally accosted.

I've witnessed my coworkers being punched, placed in headlocks, strangled and having bodily fluids (including urine, feces and semen) thrown on them.

These egregious assaults on staff contributes to fear, anxiety, and **extreme** burnout of health care providers.

We have worked extremely hard, especially these last two years, with the pandemic, and increased volumes, flooding our health care system. It is difficult to focus on the medical aspect of our profession, while dealing with physical and verbal abuse.

I find it disparaging that consequences have not be enforced.

Patients, regardless of situations, need to know these behaviors are unacceptable, and will not be tolerated. Targeting health care providers is impermissible.

**On behalf of health care workers across the state, I implore you to pass this most significant bill.**

Thank you for your time,

*Michelle O'Dell, MSN, RN*

*Hospital Supervisor*

P: 240-566-4340

400 West 7<sup>th</sup> St

Frederick, MD 21701



*“Be the **CHANGE** that you wish to see in the world”*