

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 326

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 24, 2021 8:00 AM

Christine Yanas, VP of Policy & Advocacy
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.
San Antonio, TX

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas is in support of HB 326 by Rep. Donna Howard.

Katy Perkins, LCSW-S
Self
Richardson, TX

I support this bill. I am a member of the National Association of Social Workers and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Healthcare providers, including myself as a Social Worker and former hospital case manager, experience workplace violence daily. Including threats and physical violence. The individuals providing verbal testimony today are addressing all of the points I too would have made. Please vote yes on HB 326. Thank you.

Wendy Wilson
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives
Austin, TX

SUPPORT

Crissie Richardson, RN
Texas Emergency Nurses Association
Salado, TX

I am writing in support of HB 326. As an emergency nurse for the past 15 years, I experience some sort of workplace violence on a daily basis. Throughout my career, I have been verbally assaulted and physically assaulted. As an administrator, I have had staff who have been slapped, punched, cursed at, and kicked. These types of violence have both short-term more physical effects, but also long-term more emotional effects, at times causes the staff member to leave the healthcare profession all together. This bill will allow us to establish committees, develop plans, provide annual training, protect providers from retaliation, and adjust patient care assignments after an incident. Your support for this bill is appreciated.

Brenda Kelley, MSN, RN, CEN
Texas Emergency Nurses Association
Ft. Worth, TX

I am writing in support of HB 326. As an emergency nurse and leader, I have suffered workplace violence as well as seen my nursing staff suffer violence from patients and family members. Being assaulted while at work should not be accepted as "part of the job". Healthcare workers in all nursing care areas of hospitals are subject to the same assaults as emergency workers. As a

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nursing leader in emergency and critical care, I have had my staff experience violence against themselves which required security as well as local police department intervention. We need to enact laws that will protect healthcare workers from violence in the workplace. I urge you to pass this legislation to protect our healthcare workers.

Kelsea Heiman

Texas Emergency Nurses Association

Alvin, TX

Workplace violence is one of the most pressing issues facing healthcare workers today, especially emergency nurses. Healthcare workers are four times more likely to experience violence than other professions, and out of all assaults in the United States, 75% occurred in health care and social service settings. Given their role at the bedside, nurses are often the target of this violence—in fact, one in two nurses report being a victim of workplace violence at some point during their career. Because of workplace violence, nurses are more susceptible to burnout, worsening the already palpable nursing shortage.

In the emergency department, we don't get to say "No." We must care for everyone who walks through our doors, regardless of their behavior. I have been spit on, kicked, punched, scratched, and called every name under the sun. My colleagues have been bitten, stabbed, and had their hair pulled out. And not every one of these injuries was caused by a patient who was altered. Often, the patient is of sound mind.

This bill would effectively address workplace violence by:

- ? Require facilities to establish workplace violence prevention committees, which must include at least one nurse.
- ? Require committees to develop workplace violence prevention plans
- ? Require facilities to provide annual training on workplace violence prevention
- ? Protect providers from retaliation after reporting
- ? To the extent possible, require facilities to adjust patient care assignments after an incident

Please consider supporting the journey of this bill to support the work of the very people called heroes one year ago. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kelsea K. Heiman, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN

seliena corrington

Houston Methodist Clear Lake

Houston, TX

Please Support HB 426! Workplace Violence Prevention Bill

Workplace violence is one of the most pressing issues facing Emergency Department staff today. Healthcare workers are four times more likely to experience violence than other professions, and out of all assaults in the United States, 75% occurred in health care and social service settings. Given their role at the bedside, nurses are often the target of this violence—in fact, one in two nurses report being a victim of workplace violence at some point during their career. Because of workplace violence, nurses are more susceptible to burnout, worsening the already palpable nursing shortage.

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- Require facilities to provide annual training on workplace violence prevention
- Protect providers from retaliation after reporting
- To the extent possible, require facilities to adjust patient care assignments after an incident

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Supporting Organizations

Texas Emergency Nurses Association
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Nurses Association
Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition

Please approve immediately!!! Thank you for your consideration!
Seliena Corrington, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, CEN, CPEN, TCRN

JoAnn Craze, Registered nurse
Self registered nurse
Cumby, TX

Workplace violence is one of the most pressing issues facing healthcare workers today. Healthcare workers are four times more likely to experience violence than other professions, and out of all assaults in the United States, 75% occurred in health care and social service settings. Given their role at the bedside, nurses are often the target of this violence—in fact, one in two nurses report being a victim of workplace violence at some point during their career. Because of workplace violence, nurses are more susceptible to burnout, worsening the already palpable nursing shortage.

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- Require facilities to provide annual training on workplace violence prevention
- Protect providers from retaliation after reporting
- To the extent possible, require facilities to adjust patient care

Elizabeth Pigg, RN
Emergency Nurses Association
Deer Park, TX

As an ER nurse, I was assaulted at least 10 times in my first 3 years, even to the point of having to seek medical treatment for myself. The justice system said there was nothing they could do because the patient was 'sick' or 'mentally unstable.' I don't care for people to be openly abused by them. We have to do better.

Sarah Mills, Dir. of Government Affairs
Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice
AUSTIN, TX

The Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice (TAHC&H) represents more than 1,200 licensed Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSAs) across the state. Licensed HCSSAs employ over 330,000(1,2) nurses, therapists and personal care aides who provide medically necessary home care services to Texas' most vulnerable aged and disabled individuals. We are in support of HB 326 and request passage of the bill from the committee.

House Bill 2696 (H.B. 2696), 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, added Section 105.009 to the Health and Safety Code to allow the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) to conduct a study on workplace violence against nurses in hospitals, freestanding emergency medical care facilities (FEC), nursing facilities, and home health agencies (HHA).

The study found that most nurses had experienced some kind of violent act in the workplace in the past 12 months. Verbal abuse was the most common type of workplace violence experienced by nurses. Patients were the most commonly reported group to commit violent acts against nurses.

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HB 326 implements many of the recommendations that were a result of the study and ensures a consistent process to mitigate and protect health care providers and employees from violent behavior and threats of violent behavior during the provision of home care services. We thank the author for working with our industry to implement stakeholder recommendations and ensure home care agencies are able to create effective policies to mitigate workplace violence in an efficient manner.

1. Data retrieved from Article II, Health and Human Services Commission, Rider 157 report and Kaiser Family Foundation Medicare Service Use: Home Health Services
2. Data retrieved from the Texas Board of Nursing FY2020 Nursing Statistics Reports: LVNs by employment field and county; RNs by employment field and county.

Mary Leblond

Myself as a member of Emergency Nurses Association

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for continuing your efforts toward help in resolving workplace violence.

As an emergency nurse who has been on the receiving end of violence in the workplace, please vote in favor of HB 326