

**Memorandum in Support
Hospital Violence Prevention Program
A203 (Cruz)/S5294 (Sepúlveda)**

ANA-New York (ANA-NY), a professional nursing organization representing the interests of New York State's 260,000 registered nurses, supports this legislation. ANA-NY advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing care, supporting the professional and educational advancement of nurses, and promoting the welfare of nurses to the end that all people may have better health care.

On behalf of our members, and their patients, and as a member of the coalition with the New York State Emergency Nurses Association and the Academy of Emergency Physicians-New York, we support this legislation that creates the Hospital Violence Prevention Program, which would require hospitals to ensure there are security personnel in hospital emergency departments to protect nurses, doctors, and staff, who provide critical medical care in such emergency departments, from violence and verbal and physical abuse. ANA-New York believes this legislation is crucial for mitigating workplace violence in the emergency department setting and promoting an environment conducive to providing emergency care to our patients. Everyone deserves a workplace free of violence to preserve the safety and security of patients and our local communities. Violence in Emergency Departments (EDs), or any other healthcare workplace, should never be tolerated.

According to surveys by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), almost half of ED physicians report being physically assaulted at work, while about 70% of emergency nurses report being hit and kicked while on the job. In addition, the vast majority (80%) of emergency physicians say violence in the Emergency Department harms patient care.

As reported by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) News, every nurse and physician who was interviewed for a story on emergency department violence had experienced or witnessed violent acts, including biting, scratching, spitting, kicking, and punching. There were reports of patients throwing objects, yanking out IVs and threatening to throw blood at health care providers.

The Hospital Prevention Program A203 (Cruz)/S5294 (Sepúlveda) establishes a process and requirements to help ensure a safer work environment for patients and health care personnel in hospitals, including hospital Emergency Departments, in New York State.

Given that the Emergency Department is one of the most vulnerable high- risk areas in the hospital, the ANA-New York strongly supports A203 (Cruz)/S5294 (Sepúlveda).