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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB537

I was a registered nurse for 42 years and a clinical nurse specialist for 25, practicing in critical care for most of those years.

As an RN, I was subjected to violence on many occasions, extending back to my educational experiences in 1981-82. I also witnessed multiple occurrences of violence toward my colleagues and students, including hitting, purposely splashing bodily fluids, and attempted strangulation. Another colleague was kicked in the neck by a violent male patient and required surgical repair of a tracheal injury.

That's why I'm writing to express my support for SB 537. Nurses have a high rate of workplace injury from violence and other causes, and our employers often turn a blind eye, ignoring our reports and attempting to blame us.

Crucial first steps in solving this serious threat to nurses and other health care workers include counting violent incidents and creating safety teams focused on violence prevention, response, and aftercare. This bill does that.

Please support nurses by passing SB 537.