

Submitter: Virginia Smith  
On Behalf Of: ONA  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB537

My safety and the safety of my patients will be greatly improved by the passing of this bill. I personally have been assaulted numerous times in my 17 years as an inpatient Medical/Surgical Registered Nurse. I have called the police 4 times in my career for patients who have actively assaulted myself and staff on my unit—I got immense pushback from my hospital and admin staff who said it “didn’t look good” for our patients. Meanwhile, our patients were scared and needed their nurses to be empowered to keep them safe. I believe this bill will do that—by improving our hospital safety committees, defining workplace violence, and supporting our frontline caregivers.