

Sample Phone Call Message

Violence Against Nurses Bill A3103/S4018

Hello, my name is _____; I'm a constituent of (Assemblymember/Senator) and a registered nurse.

May I speak with (him/her) or (his/her) health aide about a bill? (I'd like to leave a message...)

I'm calling about (Assembly/Senate) bill (number in corresponding house), the "violence against nurses" bill. I was glad to note that the (Assemblymember/Senator) is a sponsor. I strongly support this bill, which would provide RNs and LPNs the same protection as other first responders.

- ◆ Nurses are often first to interact with individuals or groups in injured and excited states, which exposes them to greater risk of violence than many in other professions. While nurses are trained with a minimum competency to interact with individuals in various situations, intervention in a potentially violent situation is not often part of that specialized training.
- ◆ Individual nurses have very little influence over the level of violence or the safeguards in their workplaces. Gang members, drug or alcohol abusers, trauma patients, mentally ill patients, and distraught family members are often present and have unrestricted movement through facilities.
- ◆ This is unsafe for patients and nurses. When nurses are assaulted, they are taken away from direct patient care. The gap created in staffing when one nurse is assaulted places a heavier burden on the remaining nurses and exacerbates an environment of delays, errors, poorer quality care, and frustrations that may further the potential for additional assaults.

Please ask your leadership to bring this bill to the floor for a vote this session so that nurses can provide patient care in a safer work environment.

Would you please make sure that I get a letter in response to my call today? Let me give you my address; _____. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know. The best number to reach me is _____.

Thank you so much for your time!