

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Kellie Deeter  
U.S House of Representative for Ohio

The Honorable Bernie Moreno  
U.S Senator for Ohio

The Honorable Jon Husted  
U.S senator for Ohio

Dear Members of Congress,

My name is Nadia Drivas, and I'm a licensed practical nurse. I'm a student at Firelands School of Nursing in the LPN-RN program. I'm writing you regarding the current issue of nursing maltreatment by patients. I believe it is critical to address the rising incidents of abuse to nurses by patients when providing care.

Public awareness has been raised about this issue, but the state has done nothing to help and support the nurses in need. Approximately 25% of nurses have reported being physically assaulted by a patient or family member. An alert and oriented patient physically assaulted me. They were upset that we could not reheat their meal because we did not have microwaves on the floor. That patient threw the meal tray at me. This issue should be not be permitted. While doing our job, we are subjected to verbal, emotional, and physical abuse by the patients and their families. When we come into the workplace, we should not have to fear that we will be attacked.

A nurse's job is to provide safe, effective patient care. Every nurse chooses this challenging and stressful career because we want to make a positive impact on others. We provide care to people in vulnerable situations and support their well-being. A topic that has come up is that we are having a nursing shortage. We have nurses, but they are not at the bedside because we are burned out. Nurses work long hours to get verbal and physical abuse from patients and their families. At that time, it reached an all-time high for violence in hospitals.

We need the state to create a law that does not allow patients to abuse the nurses physically. The law should specify that any alert and oriented patient who abuses a nurse may face legal repercussions. Any family member that causes physical harm to a nurse can be faced with legal consequences.

Sincerely,

Nadia Drivas, LPN