April 3, 2025

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur

U.S. House of Representatives of Ohio

The Honorable Bernie Moreno

U.S. Senator of Ohio

The Honorable Jon Husted

U.S. Senator of Ohio

Dear Members of Congress,

My name is Kailee Felder, and I am a student nurse who is currently attending Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. I am planning to graduate this May and continue my nursing career at Firelands Hospital as a registered nurse. I have also worked at the hospital for about 3 years now as a nurse's aide and I have learned that hospitals are not the safe space that I thought they were when I first began my career there. As someone who works in healthcare, I think that there should be action taken to keep healthcare staff safe.

I consider myself or be someone who loves caring for others, and I decided on becoming a nurse from a very young age and I have done everything to make that happen. As my time to graduate and become a nurse is approaching, I find myself having some fears too. One of these fears being "Will my hospital protect me?" because of what happened with a nurse named Leelamma Lal. Leelamma was attacked by a patient which landed her in the intensive care unit risking losing her vision completely. When I started to work in the hospital, I knew that I would be dealing with different types of patients who could be confused, impulsive, and even agitated but never did I thought that I could end up fighting for my life while trying to do good for the people of this world.

Another recent event occurred in Pennsylvania at UPMC Memorial Hospital when a man attacked hospital staff after his wife's passing. After injuring 5 people and a police officer, he was killed in a shootout with the police. What should be noted about this situation is that this man walked into the hospital with a firearm, zip ties, and duct tape and made it all the way into the intensive care unit without anyone knowing he had these items. At airports, we have security systems put into place in order to ensure no one is taking anything onto the plane that could harm

themselves or others, and so that way they do not even make it far enough to cause harm. Why is it that we cannot have metal detectors or more security to prevent things like this from happening? I am 20 years old, and I should not have to go to work and fear for my life as I am trying to keep others alive.

To conclude, I am asking that something be done to protect your hospital staff from things like this. If you know a nurse, doctor, therapist, someone who has been a patient, or have been a patient yourself, think about how you would want to feel being in the hospital. If you are thinking that you or a family member would not feel safe in your local hospital because of everything that has occurred recently, then you can start the change to protect your healthcare staff. If you wish to speak further, please contact me at (419) 217-8946 or kailee.felder@icloud.com. I thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Kailee Felder, Student Nurse