

June 5th, 2024

The Honorable Adam Matthews
Chair, House Public Health Policy Committee
The Ohio House of Representatives
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Matthews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and members of the Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 452.

UC Health serves as the only verified adult Level 1 Trauma Center for the Greater Cincinnati region, and our academic medical centers at University of Cincinnati Medical Center and West Chest Hospital proudly provides world-class care to all injured and critically ill patients in our communities. Our tripartite mission to provide lifesaving clinical care, generate innovative research, and educate the next generations of medical providers all underscore our goal to improve the comprehensive care of trauma patients in the greater Cincinnati region. We are innovators, relentless in our pursuit of the best in medicine and able to care for the most complex and critically ill patients. We hold the highest standard of patient care, clinical research and medical education.

Workplace violence in the healthcare setting is a significant and growing concern that has reached epidemic status. Healthcare workers are four times more likely to experience workplace violence than workers in other industries and these incidents range from verbal abuse to acts of physical violence and they can have severe consequences not only for the victims but also for the overall healthcare environment. We applaud the efforts of the sponsors to address workplace violence in healthcare for the State of Ohio. We believe at a time when recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals is experiencing significant challenges, addressing workplace violence could help improve healthcare professional satisfaction. Healthcare professionals are the backbone of our healthcare system, and they deserve a safe and secure work environment where they can focus on their primary mission: delivering exceptional patient care. By enacting House Bill 452, we take a decisive step towards protecting our healthcare workers, ensuring their well-being, and ultimately improving patient outcomes.

In conclusion, we appreciate the sponsors inclusivity in the development of this legislation and their continued collaboration to enhance House Bill 452. This legislation addresses a pressing issue that affects not only healthcare workers but also the quality of care provided to patients across our state. By implementing comprehensive measures to prevent workplace violence, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for all healthcare professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Jackson'.

Jen Jackson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC
Vice President of Operations/Chief Nursing Officer

UC Health West Chester Hospital