

December 2, 2024

Anthony Sopko, RN, EMT-P  
President and Chair  
UAW Local 2213 Professional Registered Nurses  
PO Box 9536  
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Written Proponent Testimony for Sub HB 452.

Ohio Senate Veterans & Public Safety Committee members:

Thank you for hearing this important bill today. My Name Is Tony Sopko, RN. I have worked in the healthcare setting for nearly 20 years with most of that time being in Emergency Medicine. I now have the honor and privilege to represent the over 1,100 nurses in Toledo who are represented by UAW Local 2213 Professional Registered Nurses. As a nurse dedicated to ensuring a safe and supportive work environment, protecting healthcare workers from workplace violence is paramount.

Healthcare workers are not immune to workplace violence. Nearly every day when I was working in the ER, a coworker would experience some sort of violence against them – whether it be physical, verbal, or yes, even sexual. Many of these incidents did not get even get reported. Unfortunately, some think that this is normal or just a part of the job. Plainly put – workplace violence should not be the norm or a part of any job. This is why HB452 is a vital piece of legislation to help end the cycle.

HB452 will require hospitals to establish security plans and incident reporting systems, ensuring that aggressive behaviors are managed effectively, and healthcare workers are protected. Our members urge you to support HB452 to create a safer work environment for all healthcare professionals and to ensure the well-being of all who work in our hospitals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Sopko", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Sopko, RN, EMT-P