

Written Testimony of Andrew Hull, BSN, RN  
Danbury Hospital

**SB 970 An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Response**

Public Health Committee

February 23, 2011

As way of introduction my name is Andrew Hull. I am a Registered Nurse at Danbury Hospital in Danbury Connecticut. I am writing in hopes that my story will shed some light on the struggles facing nurses in the workplace.

On March 2, 2010, I was working on a cardiac telemetry floor at Danbury Hospital. At the time I was the Assistant Nurse Manager. At around 14:30, I was in the nursing station when two nurses turned the corner and informed me there was a patient holding my colleagues at gunpoint. I turned the corner to find that the patient was pointing a small firearm at two staff members. I yelled at the patient in hopes of getting his attention, and proceeded to tackle him to the ground. The patient then discharged the weapon three times striking me in the hand, neck, and face. Fortunately I survived but needless to say, the following months were very trying for me, my family, and Danbury Hospital.

Although the events surrounding this particular event were extreme, nurses are exposed to violence in many different forms daily. Whether it is angry patients, family members, or colleagues, nurses are routinely subject to both physical and verbal abuse. Health care employees are more than three times as likely as workers in other industries to be injured by acts of violence. It is my sincere hope that something positive can come from my traumatic experience. Health care is facing an enormous challenge with the expected nursing shortage. We cannot allow the threat of workplace violence to be a deterrent to nurses. More importantly we have to work towards making the everyday work environment safe. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Andrew Hull BSN, RN