

Written Testimony of

Rebecca DeLutri, R.N.

Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47, AFT Local 5047, AFL-CIO

To members of the Public Health Committee

Re: Raised Bill No. 275 An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Reporting

March 7, 2012

My name is Rebecca DeLutri, I am a registered nurse working at Danbury Hospital on the Orthopedic-Neurology Floor. I am writing to ask you to oppose Raised Bill 275.

In July, 2011, a patient was admitted to my floor for multiple stab wounds. It was well documented by all registered nurses caring for this patient that he was verbally threatening and aggressive toward staff. He was using inappropriate language, threatening to harm staff and telling them that he does not want certain people caring for him.

On July 8, 2011 I was assigned to care for him. It was noted that he was suppose to be due in court the next day. It was also noted many times that he was non compliant with his plan of care. He picked at wound dressings which could cause complications and infections. When I cared for him, I explained his plan of care and as part of discharge instructions; I explained to him the importance of not getting his dressings wet. When the surgical team made rounds, they found his dressings wet. The patient told them an RN told him he could shower.

When I returned to the room to clarify that I did not tell him to shower the patient became verbally abusive to me, and used aggressive and foul language. I told him this behavior was not acceptable and I would have to get security.

The patient came out of his room and went to the nurse's station and continued to yell and threaten me. I did not feel safe. Security was called and eventually the situation was diffused. Fortunately, I was not physically injured, but it has had a negative effect on me psychologically.

This behavior is work place violence and should continue to be protected by law. I ask you not to support the proposed changes of SB 275.

Sincerely,
Rebecca DeLutri
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