

Testimony of Keith Inrig, First Vice President

University Health Professionals, AFT Local 3837

**Raised Bill 275 AAC Workplace Violence Prevention and Response in
Health Care Settings**

Public Hearing

March 7, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Keith Inrig, a Radiographer by trade. Presently I am the First Vice President for University Health Professionals, the labor union representing the 2,500 non-faculty professionals at UConn Health Center and its satellites.

I am submitting testimony in opposition to Raised Bill 275. By changing the current language from any *act which may constitute an assault or related offense, as described in part V of chapter 952, to of violence* weakens the intent of the original bill. I am very concerned that the proposed language would allow an assault in the 3rd degree to not be considered as an act of violence let alone the assault it is. Further my concerns are who will be making the determination as to if the assault reaches the proposed standard, and who will decide what is reported.

Working in a sizable healthcare facility can be a dangerous job. In day two of an online survey being conducted by OSHA, with 221 responding 82% considers healthcare occupations as dangerous. Raised bill 275 will weaken protections for healthcare workers making the work we do more dangerous. I urge you to not support this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.