

## **SB 110**

I am writing in support of proposed bill # 110: "Threats and assaults against hospital workers".

I work as an Emergency Department Technician at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington CT. The CHH ED has a crisis unit where mentally ill and drug and alcohol patients are admitted for evaluation. Many of the drug and alcohol patients become violent and often need to be restrained to a bed during this process. During the time they are being restrained, one-to-one staff member-to-patient supervision is required. The technicians have the task to monitor these patients for safety.

These patients are almost always violent while we restrain them and they invariably threaten with violence. As a staff, we usually take these threats in stride. I figure I can survive someone who wishes to beat me up. When they threaten to come back to "shoot the place up" it needs to become a different matter.

I was involved in restraining a 31 year old female patient. This patient was threatening to come back with her "Mac 10" to kill us all. I consider this threat to have far more credibility than the usual threats of being beaten up. A "Mac 10" is a high capacity, easily concealable (handgun size) firearm that holds 30 plus rounds, and it is easily converted to a fully automatic gun (machine gun). How many women know what a "Mac 10" is?

When we have a patient who states that they wish to commit suicide, we ask if they have a plan. Those with plans are taken very seriously. We should take patients who threaten with a gun or the threat has a plan very seriously as well. If they state, "I am coming back with a weapon", or "I will find you when you least expect it" this threat needs to be taken extremely seriously as well.

What should be done?

First, our lawmakers have to realize that most hospital administrators do not want health care workers to press charges, even when they have been physically attacked. It is seen as tarnishing the hospital's image. The "push-back" from the administration can be quite heated. The following seem indicated:

1. Threats involving weapons or a plan of violence must require mandatory reporting. Not an option.
2. A police report and arrest needs to follow.
3. A court hearing and penalty should be the consequence.

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