

## **Why Bill #HB1164 is Important for Nurses**

*Originally published by Nurse Together online*

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Good day everyone. My name is Sheila Wilson and I am a nurse. I have worked for over 30 years in one of the best careers I would ever want, however as much as I loved going to work, I realized how dangerous the job was.

I have been assaulted numerous times, verbally, physically and emotionally. After seeing so many of my **coworkers being assaulted**, being unable to come back to work because of their injuries, I felt I needed to do something. I called my representative, Bruce Ayers, and he introduced this bill into congress:

**An Act strengthening the penalty for assault or assault and battery on emergency medical technician, ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or health care provider.**

By Mr. Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1164) of Bruce J. Ayers and others relative to the penalties for assault or assault and battery on an emergency medical technician, ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or health care provider. The Judiciary.

**Sponsors:** [Bruce J. Ayers](#)

**Status:** Referred to [Joint Committee on the Judiciary](#)

SECTION 1. Section 13I of Chapter 265 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4, the words "treating or transporting a person"

SECTION 2. Section 13I of Chapter 265 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 6, the words "house of correction for not less than 90 days nor more than 2 and one-half years or by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or both." and inserting in place thereof the following words: state prison for

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not more than five years, or by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than two and one-half years.

### **The Importance of Bill HH1164**

Some of my coworkers went to court to charge the person that assaulted them. That person would be charged with a misdemeanor and maybe get probation. That person is allowed to continue their life as before. My coworker would be going to her/his doctor's and physical therapy appointments and unable to collect the normal paycheck. That nurse's life has changed forever.

**Violence in nursing** is getting worse, the abusers are not being held accountable for their role in the abuse. Here in Massachusetts, the law is a misdemeanor for assaulting a healthcare worker. This bill could change the law for assaulting a nurse into a felony.

**How you can help:** 31 other states have the law a felony for assaulting a healthcare worker. Please help getting this law changed by calling, emailing or writing your representative to support **bill number HB1164**.

Thank You.

Sheila Wilson R.N.BSN MPH

President stophealthcareviolence.org

[www.stophealthcareviolence.org](http://www.stophealthcareviolence.org)