



# UNAC/UHCP

United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals

UNAC/UHCP is affiliated with NUHHCE, AFSCME and the AFL-CIO

955 Overland Court, Suite 150, San Dimas, CA 91773-1718

Telephone: (909) 599-8622

Fax: (909) 599-8655

Website: [www.unacuhcp.org](http://www.unacuhcp.org)

February 24, 2015

Attn: Robert Nakamura  
State of California  
Division of Occupational Safety and Health Research and Standards Unit  
1515 Clay Street, Room 1901  
Oakland, CA 94612

Health care professionals representing the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP) attended the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Health Care Workplace Violence Prevention Advisory Meeting on February 5, 2015 to discuss the petitions granted by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board on the implementation of SB1299, codified as Labor Code Section 6401.8.

The first draft of the proposed regulations by the Safety and Health Standards Board is a promising step towards addressing and preventing some of the factors that contribute to an unsafe work environment for health care workers and their patients throughout the state of California.

However, health care workers wish to be more than idle witnesses to the implementation of the proposed regulations. Health care workers want a seat at the table in the design, execution and implementation of enforceable and mandated pillars of workplace violence prevention listed below.

- Training
- Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (specific to individual facility)
- Record Keeping
- Reporting and debriefing
- Off site campus security
- Bullying (peer to peer as well as management to peer)
- Technology and innovation as a deterrent and/or warning system

UNAC/UHCP circulated a petition to urge Cal/OSHA to address the crisis of workplace violence. In two weeks, UNAC/UHCP collected over 11,000 signatures from health care workers as well as community members. The overwhelming response to the issue of workplace violence shows there is widespread support for strong measures to protect workers.

UNAC/UHCP urges you to put forth the strongest regulations possible in place to protect health care workers from patient violence in their place of work, and to do so as quickly as possible.