



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE SENATOR
MICHAEL O. MOORE
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
State House, Room 518, Boston, MA 02133 (617) 722-1485

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Contact: Jason Palitsch
(617) 722-1485

**GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL FILED BY SEN. MOORE INTO LAW, PROTECTING NURSES
FROM ASSAULT**

BOSTON – On Friday, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law “An Act Relative to Assault on Health Care Providers,” filed by Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury), which strengthens protections for nurses and other healthcare providers against assault and battery during the performance of their jobs.

"This is a day that I and many others have been working towards for some time, and I am very proud to see it come," said Sen. Moore. "Our nurses must overcome daunting obstacles in the course of their daily work, as they care for patients and save lives. I filed this bill to address what has unfortunately become a pervasive problem for nurses, particularly in Emergency Rooms: physical assault. This bill, which has been filed every session for six years, will lead to corrective action being taken against those who would harm a nurse on the job, and it will communicate to the public and the medical community the severity of this problem."

The bill mandates a minimum of ninety days in prison or a fine of no less than \$500 for anyone who assaults a healthcare provider who is either treating or transporting them. According to a 2007 report by the Emergency Nurses Association, more than half of emergency room nurses report experiencing physical violence on the job, while a June 2008 study showed that workers in the healthcare sector are 16 times more likely to be the victim of on-the-job violence than any other service profession [Derrickson Moore, S. "Healthcare workers are more likely to face violence than any other worker in the service profession." 2008.].

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Moore, is part of a larger push to protect the safety of health care professionals and improve overall quality of care. The bill also extends protections to Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists, amongst others. Such protections already exist for Emergency Medical Technicians.

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