
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS BE INSTITUTED IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO MINIMIZE THE OCCURRENCE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES SUFFERED BY NURSES.

1 WHEREAS, work-related musculoskeletal disorders are the
2 leading occupational health problem plaguing the nursing
3 workforce; and
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5 WHEREAS, of primary concern are back injuries, which can be
6 severely debilitating for nurses, though other types of
7 musculoskeletal injuries can affect other parts of the body as
8 the neck, shoulders, wrists, and knees; and
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10 WHEREAS, compared to other occupations, nursing personnel
11 are among the highest at risk for musculoskeletal disorders; and
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13 WHEREAS, according to the United State Department of Labor,
14 nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants ranked second and
15 registered nurses sixth in a list of at-risk occupations for
16 strains and sprains that included truck drivers (first),
17 laborers (third), and construction workers (seventh); and
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19 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor also
20 estimated that, for the year 2000, the incidence rate for back
21 injuries involving lost work days was 181.6 per 10,000 full-time
22 workers in nursing homes and 90.1 per 10,000 full-time workers
23 in hospitals, whereas comparative incidence rates per 10,000
24 full-time workers were 98.4 for truck drivers, 70.0 for
25 construction workers, 56.3 for miners, and 47.1 for agriculture
26 workers; and
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28 WHEREAS, in 2001, the United States Department of Labor
29 found that for cases involving days away from work among
30 registered nurses (total of 24,719), 4,547 were categorized as
31 overexertion in lifting and 14,832 were listed as sprains or
32 strains; and



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2 WHEREAS, the risk for musculoskeletal injury secondary to
3 manual patient handling crosses all specialty areas of nursing
4 and as such, no nurse is effectively clear from risk; and
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6 WHEREAS, the impact on the nursing workforce may lead to
7 adverse consequences at the organizational level, as well,
8 through increased absenteeism, lost work time, burnout,
9 decreased retention, high turnover, and threatened recruitment;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, the extent of musculoskeletal disorders among the
13 United States nursing workforce is particularly distressing when
14 contemplated in the context of the current nursing shortage; and
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16 WHEREAS, injuries secondary to patient handling tasks
17 compound factors such as the aging of the nursing workforce,
18 declining retention and recruitment rates, and lowering social
19 value of nursing to worsen the shortage problem; and
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21 WHEREAS, in response to the significant number and severity
22 of work-related back injuries and other musculoskeletal
23 disorders among nurses, the American Nurses Association has
24 launched the Handle With Care campaign; and
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26 WHEREAS, the campaign seeks to build a health care
27 industry-wide effort to prevent back and other musculoskeletal
28 injuries; and
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30 WHEREAS, this is being done through developing partnerships
31 and coalitions, education and training, increasing use of
32 assistive equipment and patient-handling devices, reshaping
33 nursing education to incorporate safe patient handling, and
34 pursuing federal and state ergonomics policy by highlighting
35 technology-oriented safe-patient handling benefits for patients
36 and nurses; and
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38 WHEREAS, in the absence of ergonomics regulations at
39 national or state levels that protect health care workers, the
40 American Nurses Association has taken on alternative approaches
41 to encourage a movement to control ergonomic hazards in the
42 health care workplace and prevent back injuries among the
43 nation's nursing workforce; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Council of State Governments' Health
 2 Capacity Task Force adopted and supported the policies contained
 3 in the American Nurses Association's Handle With Care campaign
 4 and asked member states to also support the campaign; now,
 5 therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 9 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature of the
 10 State of Hawaii supports the policies contained in the American
 11 Nurses Association's Handle With Care campaign; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Council of State
 15 Governments' Health Capacity Task Force and the American Nurses
 16 Association.

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