



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Governmental & Legislative
Affairs Director

August 4, 2015

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 172 (Rodriguez) – Emergency Departments Assault and Battery Penalties
As amended May 28, 2015 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Lara:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 172, legislation which will increase the penalties for violence committed against all health care workers engaged in providing services inside the Emergency Department (ED).

Workplace violence accounts for approximately 900 deaths and 1.7 million non-fatal assaults each year in the United States. Studies have shown that between 35% and 80% of hospital staff have been physically assaulted at least once during their careers. Unfortunately, healthcare personnel who entered the helping profession are being assaulted by their patients and visitors far too often. This has caused healthcare personnel to consider leaving the profession, transferring to less volatile workplaces, and have long-lasting physical and emotional issues.

Nurses experience the most assaults, but physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses' aides, therapists, technicians, home healthcare workers, social/welfare workers, and emergency medical care personnel are all at risk of violence by patients or a patient's friends or relatives.

AB172 will increase fines and penalties for assault and/or battery against healthcare workers when they are providing care for patients and send a message to the public that violence will not be tolerated. This bill will increase the safety of our health care workers providing critical emergency services without the threat of violence or assault.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests an "Aye" vote on AB 172. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ramos".

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, California State Assemblyman
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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