

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WNA APPLAUDS ASSEMBLY PASSAGE OF SB 163 WORKPLACE VIOLENCE  
AGAINST NURSES**

*WNA-supported legislation will provide increased criminal penalties for perpetrators who cause battery to Registered Nurses and other nursing personnel.*

The State Assembly voted January 21, 2020 to support SB 163 which provides a Class H Felony, for individuals who cause bodily harm to a nurse. This action provides another avenue of support for the 105,000 nurses and the over 60,000 certified nurse assistants in Wisconsin who experience this type of workplace violence.

“If nurses do not feel safe they cannot practice safely”, stated Pam Macari Sanberg, President of the, Wisconsin Nurses Association. “Passage of SB 163 is an important part of a larger campaign of educating and empowering nurses to report workplace violence and hopefully avoid life threatening situations.”

According to the American Nurses Association one in four nurses are assaulted at work. Data from the Wisconsin Nurses Association show that there is an increase in workplace violence against nurses in Wisconsin. Workplace violence includes physical, verbal and sexual assault. Workplace violence against nurses can come from patients, family members and/or visitors.

WNA is appreciative of the leadership of Representative Gae Magnafici and State Senator Dale Kooyenga in authoring SB 163 and AB 175.

*The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) is the premier organization representing the interests of Wisconsin’s 90,000 registered nurses. WNA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. WNA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all.*