



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 3401</b>		DATE: <b>3/26/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Health and Mental Health</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. AC DIENOFF</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-440-9000</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>P O. BOX #1535</b>			
CITY: <b>O' FALLON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63366</b>
EMAIL: <b>ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 11:53 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>I Support this Bill</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN BERNSKOETTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-619-6040</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>101 E. HIGH</b>			
CITY: <b>JC</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID BARNES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI EMERGENCY NURSE ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>REGISTERED NURSE</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>
EMAIL:		ZIP:
ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HEIDI LUCAS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-616-2740</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 323</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACOB SCOTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-691-5707</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION; MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS &amp; SURGEONS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>113 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KYNA IMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-651-1185</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI NURSES ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 1483</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA JENKINS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2026 12:47 PM</b>	
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**Workplace Violence through the eyes of my daughter.**

In the quiet corridors of psychiatric units and emergency departments, healthcare workers often face a paradox of care: the very people they are sworn to heal can, in moments of acute distress, become their primary source of physical danger. While the public often views hospitals as sanctuaries of safety, for many nurses, physicians, and aides, workplace violence is not an anomaly—it is a statistically significant occupational hazard.

Despite the clinical nature of these outbursts, the physical and psychological toll on the workforce is profound. When a healthcare professional is assaulted, the resulting trauma can lead to burnout, "moral injury," and a mass exodus from the healthcare field. This creates a precarious cycle where a shortage of experienced staff further compromises patient safety and quality of care. Addressing this crisis requires more than just empathy; it demands a fundamental shift in how we balance the rights of the patient with the basic human right of the provider to work in a safe, violence-free environment.

My personal story is the same as millions of other nurses who clock into a seemingly normal shift, and walk out with significant life altering changes.

On August 26, 2025, I clocked into my shift as a House Supervisor—a role I earned through years of clinical excellence and a deep-seated devotion to the healthcare community. I walked in a leader; I walked out a casualty.

When the overhead page for a "Code 10" echoed through the halls, I didn't hesitate. I ran. I ran as I had done thousands of times before, driven by the instinct to protect my staff and my patients. I arrived to find a familiar face of rage—a patient with a documented history of destruction. Within seconds, the clinical setting dissolved into a combat zone.

I was not "providing care." I was fighting for my life. And I was doing so next to one of my best friends who also ultimately endured a beating and sustained injuries because of such. The only security officer on. Even after the patient was a well-known violent offender who had caused a massive amount of destructive and emotional damage within our employers' and healthcare system's walls.

As I fought to restrain a man intent on nothing but carnage, my screams for help were met with a hollow silence. My head was bashed against a porcelain sink five times. I felt my arm hyperextend and ultimately suffered fractures in two places. As the light flickered and my memory began to fracture, the "system" that was supposed to have my back remained paralyzed. It took the police's arrival to end a

nightmare that should never have been allowed to begin.

The patient was charged with three Class A felonies for assaulting a special victim. But in the eyes of my employer and the culture of healthcare, I was not a victim—I was an "expected cost."

?If a police officer is beaten and sustains a double fracture while protecting the public, he is a hero. No one tells him, "You signed up for this."

?If a teacher has her head slammed into a sink by a violent parent, the community demands justice. No one tells her, "It's just part of the job."

Why, then, is the nurse expected to be a second-class citizen? Why are we the only professionals expected to endure brutal physical trauma as a "clinical prerequisite"? We have been conditioned to believe that filing charges is a betrayal of our "calling," when in reality, the betrayal lies in a system that disarms our civil rights the moment we put on a stethoscope.

The fractures in my arm eventually knit back together, but the "life-altering changes" remain.

?My identity, My career—the highest, most respected peak of my professional life—is gone, stripped away by the short-term memory loss and trauma that followed the assault.

I am a mother who now flinches in crowds and misses holidays because the world no longer feels safe.

I watched my youngest son cry on Thanksgiving because his mother was a ghost of her former self, trapped in a PTSD flashback of a hospital floor.

I traded my health and my livelihood for a shift I was told was supposed to be "normal."

We are told that healthcare workers are of "lesser worth" because we chose to serve. We are told to keep quiet, to endure, and to move on. I refuse.

The violence I endured was not a "symptom" to be managed; it was a crime. The lack of response was not just a "staffing issue"; it was negligence. Until we stop treating nurses as martyrs and start treating them as human beings with a right to safety, the "Silent Crisis" will continue to claim the best among us



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDA NEUMANN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2026 3:54 PM</b>
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In the United States, this Bill should not be necessary. Unfortunately, workplace violence has become almost common place, especially in hospital emergency rooms. Verbal and physical assault is not acceptable. Nurses and doctors deserve to care for their patients without being assaulted. There is no reason for nurses and doctors to be assaulted without consequence. As a Missouri constituent I support HB 3401.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARCY DAWN MARKES</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/24/2026 4:06 PM</b>
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**No nurse, or other healthcare provider should ever have to put themselves in harms way to help another. The full extent of prosecution should be instituted for anyone found to commit violence against a nurse or any other health care provider.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROB LOSEMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-893-3700</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>4712 COUNTRY CLUB</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65107</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH SCHLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-826-1274</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS &amp; GYNECOLOGISTS; MISSOURI COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>213 E. CAPITOL</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUZANNE OPPERMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 1:24 PM</b>	
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**Nurses are leaving patient care due to work place violence. Hospitals will not allow staff to place complaints, and police departments are refusing to come take reports.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>WILL MARRS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MERCY HEALTH SYSTEMS</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>223 E CAPITOL AVE</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>govservicesjcmo@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/26/2026 8:07 AM</b>

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**Workplace violence is still a major issue in every hospital system. By and large, this stems from particular patients being aggressive with staff, and we believe this bill could reduce incidents in certain situations.**