

May 12, 2022

Senator Warren Limmer, Senate Chair
Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee
3221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Carlos Mariani, House Chair
Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

On behalf of Sanford Health, I am writing to share our support for amending Minnesota Statute Section 609.2231, Subdivision 2 to add health care professionals to the list of people in which assaulting them could result in a Fourth Degree Assault charge.

In the middle of an already stressful pandemic, health care professionals across the country are also experiencing an uptick in violent acts directed towards them. The hostility and anger directed towards health care professionals is unfair and causes many to question the passion they feel towards caring for the health of their communities.

This committee has the opportunity to send a signal to health care professionals across our state, by adding an assault enhancement for assaults committed against them that the work that do matters and any violence directed towards them while working in these caring professions is reprehensible. For those who direct violence against health care professionals, this assault enhancement will ensure that such behavior will be punished appropriately and works to prevent such attacks in the future.

During this pandemic, health care professionals have been accurately called heroes. However, truly treating these professionals as the heroes they are requires that those who commit crimes against them are punished accordingly. **This is why we support the inclusion of the health care professional assault enhancement in this bill, and hope to see it included in the final Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee Report that will end up on Governor Walz's desk.**

Thank you and we are happy to provide further comments if needed.

With Regards,

Molly M. Carmody, JD
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Sanford Health