

# NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

106 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

(609) 989-8730  
FAX (609) 989-8734  
www.njafcio.org

CHARLES WOWKANECH  
PRESIDENT

LAUREL BRENNAN  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

CHARLES H. MARCIANTE  
PRESIDENT EMERITUS



JOYCE ALSTON  
MICHAEL BARNES  
JACK BERGACS  
JEFF BINZ  
PATRICK BRENNAN  
KENNETH CAMPBELL  
THOMAS CANZANELLA  
JAMES CONIGLIARO  
JOSEPH DEMARK, JR.  
RICHARD DRESSSEL

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

FRANCELINE EHRET  
EDWARD FEDORKO  
VITO FORLENZA  
JOHN GERRITY  
SHERRYL GORDON  
CHRISTINE KERBER  
THOMAS MANNING  
RITA MASON  
MATTHEW McCARTY  
GERARD MEARA

MANUEL MIRAILH  
ROCCO MIRANTI  
JOHN NICCOLLAI, JR.  
DANIEL O'CONNELL  
GERALD OWENS  
MICHAEL PARSONS  
WILLIAM PHILIPSON  
RAYMOND POCINO  
ROBERT PURSELL  
SUSAN RESCH

MORRIS RUBINO  
ANTHONY SANTO  
MILLY SILVA  
JOSEPH SORESI  
RICHARD TOLSON  
ED TREACY  
PATRICK TULLY  
ANN TWOMEY  
HARVEY WHILLE



December 3, 2007

Dear Members of the Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee:

**RE: Support S-1761 / A-3027 the "Violence Prevention in Health Care Facilities Act" and S-1758 / A-3028, the "Safe Patient Handling Act."**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports S-1761 / A-3027 the "Violence Prevention in Health Care Facilities Act" and S-1758 / A-3028, the "Safe Patient Handling Act." We respectfully ask for your support of these two bills.

Health care professionals often confront strenuous and unsafe working conditions on a daily basis. These workers deserve to work in an environment free of such hazards. Statistics show that almost half of all non-fatal injuries from assault and violence against workers occur in health care and social service settings. Furthermore, more than half of health care workers surveyed suffered chronic pain associated with patient handling activities.

The "Violence Prevention in Health Care Facilities Act" seeks to incorporate OSHA guidelines and requires health care facilities to establish violence prevention committees.

The "Safe Patient Handling Act" requires that all health care facilities adopt a safe patient handling program.

Thank you for your consideration of these legislative priorities to help protect health care workers. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech  
President

Laurel Brennan  
Secretary/Treasurer

CW:LB:jmn  
OPEIU:153

*"The Voice for Working Families in New Jersey"*