

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

**BOARDS/COMMISSIONS:** Urges the La. Health Works Commission to develop policy recommendations for creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service providers

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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To urge and request the Louisiana Health Works Commission, with assistance and guidance

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from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council, to study and make recommendations

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concerning potential policy changes for creating safer workplace environments for

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nurses and social service workers in this state, and to report these recommendations

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to the legislative committees on health and welfare and on labor and industrial

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relations.

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WHEREAS, in a 2016 report entitled "Workplace Safety and Health: Additional

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Efforts Needed to Help Protect Health Care Workers from Workplace Violence", the

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Government Accountability Office reported that, based on an analysis of Bureau of Justice

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Statistics data, over seven hundred thirty thousand cases of healthcare workplace assaults

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occurred over the five-year span from 2009 through 2013; and

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WHEREAS, the healthcare and social service professions experience the highest

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rates of injuries caused by workplace violence; registered nurses, practical nurses, nurse

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aides, mental health professionals, home health providers, and personal care attendants are

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all at high risk of such injuries; and

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WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that healthcare and social

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service workers suffered sixty-nine percent of all workplace violence injuries in 2016 and

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are nearly five times as likely to suffer such injuries than workers overall; and

1           WHEREAS, workplace violence in healthcare and social service sectors is  
2 increasing; BLS data shows that private sector injury rates resulting from workplace violence  
3 in healthcare and social service professions rose by sixty-three percent between 2006 and  
4 2016; and

5           WHEREAS, due to under-reporting of injuries sustained in episodes of workplace  
6 violence, actual injury rates from workplace violence are likely to be far higher than those  
7 reflected in official statistics; and

8           WHEREAS, violence against workers in healthcare settings results most commonly  
9 from assaults by patients, clients, and persons accompanying patients or clients; and

10           WHEREAS, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
11 (OSHA), of the nearly twenty-five thousand workplace assaults reported annually,  
12 approximately three quarters, or over eighteen thousand assaults, occur in healthcare and  
13 social service settings; and

14           WHEREAS, OSHA publishes a guidance document entitled "Guidelines for  
15 Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers"; however, this  
16 guidance is currently not enforceable; and

17           WHEREAS, absent an enforceable standard for preventing workplace violence,  
18 employers are not ultimately required to implement a violence prevention program and  
19 workers have insufficient protection from violence in their places of employment; and

20           WHEREAS, in March and April of 2019, several healthcare workers in Louisiana  
21 were victims of high-profile workplace violence incidents; tragically, after one of these  
22 attacks, a Baton Rouge nurse died as a result of her injuries; and

23           WHEREAS, these violent incidents illustrate the critical importance of workplace  
24 safety in healthcare settings and the urgent need to raise awareness of this longstanding  
25 issue.

26           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
27 urge and request the Louisiana Health Works Commission, with assistance and guidance  
28 from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council, to study and make recommendations  
29 concerning potential policy changes, including but not limited to potential legislation, for  
30 creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service workers in this state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health Works Commission shall  
2 submit a written report of the recommendations called for in this Resolution to the House  
3 Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House  
4 Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Senate Committee on Labor and  
5 Industrial Relations on or before February 1, 2020.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be dedicated to the memory of  
7 Lynne Truxillo.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
9 chairperson of the Louisiana Health Works Commission, the chairperson of the Nursing  
10 Supply and Demand Council, and the family of Lynne Truxillo.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 60 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Urges and requests the La. Health Works Commission, with assistance and guidance from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council, to study and make recommendations concerning potential policy changes for creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service workers, and to report these recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare and on labor and industrial relations on or before Feb. 1, 2020.