

1 HJR37  
2 197076-2  
3 By Representative Weaver  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 20-MAR-19

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENT TO POST WRITTEN NOTICE  
4 THAT ATTACKING A HEALTH CARE WORKER IS A FELONY.  
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6 WHEREAS, the people of Alabama's health care needs  
7 are served by over 100,000 licensed nurses in a wide array of  
8 clinical settings and levels of criticality; and

9 WHEREAS, nurses of all specialities have been cited  
10 through Gallop polls as the Most Trusted Professionals for 17  
11 consecutive years; and

12 WHEREAS, nurses are not only the largest workforce  
13 in health care, but also devote more time to direct patient  
14 care than any other health care professional; and

15 WHEREAS, both national and state data present an  
16 upward trend in violence and incivility against nurses and  
17 other health care workers in clinical settings; and

18 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of patients for  
19 health care providers and nurses to be able to perform their  
20 duties in a safe and caring environment; and

21 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature passed into law,  
22 Act 2006-565, found at Section 13A-6-21, Code of Alabama 1975,  
23 which includes an assault against a health care worker as an  
24 assault in the second degree under statutorily prescribed  
25 conditions; and

1           WHEREAS, according to a survey by the Alabama State  
2 Nurses Association of over 1,000 licensed Alabama nurses, 88  
3 percent responded that they or a close coworker had  
4 experienced violent behavior in their practice; and

5           WHEREAS, in the same survey more than half reported  
6 that they did not know that attacking a nurse or health care  
7 worker in a clinical setting was now a felony; and

8           WHEREAS, over 91 percent of the survey respondents  
9 indicated that it was extremely important that laws protecting  
10 nurses in clinical settings be known, upheld, and  
11 strengthened; now therefore,

12           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That a written notice of the felony  
14 status of attacking a nurse or a health care worker in certain  
15 practice settings should be posted in patient waiting areas  
16 across the State of Alabama in accordance with Section  
17 13A-6-21, Code of Alabama 1975; the Alabama State Nurses  
18 Association will design a poster that may be utilized by  
19 health care practitioners and health care facilities providing  
20 notice of Section 13A-6-21, Code of Alabama 1975.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature  
22 acknowledges the extraordinary work of Alabama nurses, health  
23 care workers, and institutions in providing healing and  
24 life-saving care to the people of Alabama.

