

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

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

14 WHEREAS, nurses of all specialities have been cited  
15 through Gallop polls as the Most Trusted Professionals for 17  
16 consecutive years; and

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

20 WHEREAS, both national and state data present an  
21 upward trend in violence and incivility against nurses and  
22 other health care workers in clinical settings; and

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

26 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature passed into law,  
27 Act 2006-565, found at Section 13A-6-21, Code of Alabama 1975,

1 which includes an assault against a health care worker as an  
2 assault in the second degree under statutorily prescribed  
3 conditions; and

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

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

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

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

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

