

### NWPA ALF News

May 2023 Edition

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#### NWPA Area Labor Federation Officers

Executive Poord Members			
IBEW/Trustee	Declan	Pape	
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GMP Rep/Trustee	Anthony	Modaffare	
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Vice-Chair	Maria	Delgado	
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Vice-Chair	Shane	Clark	
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Chair	Andrew	Harkulich	

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OPEIU Rep/Trustee	Jeffrey	Hapke
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Rep UFCW	Rebecca	Valvo
Rep UMWA	Chuck	Knisell
Rep USW	Paul	Pelc
En	nployee	
Director NWPA ALF	Amy	Alcorn

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The NWPA ALF's jurisdiction covers 19 Pennsylvania Counties: Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren and Westmoreland. We produce this newsletter for the members of our affiliates.

Any comments or questions about this newsletters or its contents should be sent to the NWPA ALF is located at 1276 Liberty St. Ste. 2 in Franklin, PA 16323.

https://nwpaalf.paaflcio.org www.Facebook.com/nwpaalf

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Our latest report uncovered some startling news—the rate of death on the job for Black workers grew to the highest number in nearly two decades. Latino workers have the greatest risk of dying on the job, and their fatality rate has grown by 13% over the past decade. These increases in worker fatalities are not even attributable to COVID-19. There were 343 workers who died on the job in America every single day in 2021. The agencies tasked with enforcing worker safety are underfunded, and enforcement of employer violations is lax.

In 2021, there were 1,871 inspectors—900 at the federal level and 971 at the state—for the more than 10.8 million workplaces under the Occupational Safety and Health Act's jurisdiction. Since 1970. fewer than 130 worker deaths have been criminally prosecuted. even though more than 400,000 workers have died on the job.

#### Read our latest report, Death on the Job: the Toll of Neglect

On Workers Memorial Day, we remember those we've lost and commit to our fight for a safe workplace for every worker. Because we know that workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths are preventable.

No one should have to risk their lives for their livelihoods. There is no corporate cost-benefit analysis that should put human life and worker safety on the wrong side of the ledger.

When employers don't keep our workplaces safe, it's workers and our families who pay the price.

Let's create stronger job safety laws.

Let's hold workplace safety agencies and employers accountable.

Let's make sure every worker makes it home at the end of the day. In Solidarity,

Team AFL-CIO

#### NWPA ALF BLENDED MEETINGS

Meeting 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 28th Our E-Board Meets at 6:00 PM In person at AFSCME DC 85 HALL 1276 LIBERTY ST. FRANKLIN, PA 16323 or Via ZOOM:

Special speakers: TBD

RSVP to 814-450-6520 or director.nwpa.alf@gmail.com

#### CLC Meetings in NWPA ALF:

Beaver-Lawrence CLC:

Meeting 7:00 PM on Monday, May 15th PSEA Hall

3033 New Butler Road, New Catle, PA16101 For more information call 724-971-7473.

#### **Butler County CLC:**

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 3rd UAW 3303 Hall

112 Hollywood Rd. Butler, PA 16003 For more information call 724-285-4883, 233

Clearfield-Elk-Cameron-Jefferson (Potter) CLC Blended Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 4th Via ZOOM or in person at IBEW LU5 Hall 1400 Leonard Rd. Clearfield 16830 For more information call 814-937-2208.

#### Erie-Crawford CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 3rd USW 3199 Hall

703 French St. Erie 16501

For more information call 814-823-9940.

#### Greater Westmoreland CLC:

Meeting 7:00 PM on Monday, May 15th Hemfield VFD #2,

421 Thornton Rd. Greensburg 15601 For more information call 724-600-6266.

Indiana-Armstrong CLC: Blended Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 25th via ZOOM or in person at UMWA 1412 Hall 51 Eleventh St., Lucernemines 15754 For more information call 724-479-0923.

#### Mercer County CLC:

Meeting 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 18th USW 1660 Hall,

1028 Roemer Blvd. Farrell 16121 For more information call 724-854-0605.

Venango-Clarion Chapter Blended: Meeting 6:30 PM on Thursday,May 11th Via ZOOM or inperson at IAM 1842 Hall 24 Front St. Franklin 16323

For more information call 814-671-4420.

Warren-Forest (McKean) CLC Belended: Meeting 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 4th via ZOOM or in person at IUOE 95 Hall, 116 Dobson Ave. Warren 16365 For more information call 814-730-7558

FOR ZOOM LINKS CONTACT THE CLC or ALF

## UMWA reaches tentative collective bargaining agreement with Remington Arms Inc. in Ilion, New York

APRIL 28, 2023

[TRIANGLE, VA.] The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) announced today that it has reached a tentative collective bargaining agreement with Remington Arms at its Ilion, New York operation. The union is not releasing details of the agreement until its members have heard them and held a ratification vote.

"I am proud of our members at UMWA Local Union 717 for their determination throughout this long process," said International President Cecil E. Roberts. "We have been at the negotiating table with Roundhill Group for nearly two years fighting for a collective

bargaining agreement. If it wasn't for the workers' continued efforts, this agreement would not have been possible. Ultimately though, the decision of whether or not to accept this tentative agreement is in the membership's hands."



A ratification vote will take place 48 hours after a contract explanation meeting is held to explain the terms and conditions of the tentative agreement. UMWA Local Union 717 is scheduling that meeting at this time.



Mercer County Central Labor Council's Workers' Memorial Service

Mercer County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO held the Workers' Memorial Service in the Rotunda at Mercer County Court House, Mercer, PA on April 28, 2023.

The Workers' Memorial Service was held in memory of the members of our community who lost their lives as a result of an accident, injury, or illness at work for the period April 28, 2022 through April 27, 2023. Though their journey came to a sudden end, their memories will live on in the hearts of the lives they touched. May God bless them, and be with their families, friends, and co-workers.

Thank you to those who spoke and attended the service. We extend a special thank you to the Mercer County Sheriff and the three Mercer County Commissioners who took time out their day to attend the service.

#### AM I COVERED FOR COMP IN MY SUMMER JOB

High school and college students often work during the summer with various ongoing and seasonal employers. While the individual may work only a few weeks/months, it is essential to note that an injury in the course of that employment may be compensable. However, there are issues about which those young folks—and their parents/ guardians—must be aware.

First, an individual must be an employee to be covered by workers' compensation. If a young adult is working "under the table" or wages are by 1099, they may still be employees for workers' compensation purposes depending upon the control exerted over them for work duties. An individual working under these circumstances should not assume they are not covered; they should talk to an attorney with experience and understanding of the roles of an employee versus independent contractor in workers' compensation to be certain that the young adult is protected under the Act.

Some employers—particularly seasonal employees in certain fields—do not carry workers' compensation insurance. Even though there are significant penalties including criminal penalties for this failure, that does not necessarily protect the injured individual. Depending on the worksite, there may be other parties whose workers' comp insurance would cover the injury—such as a general contractor on a construction site—and there also may be access to the Uninsured Employers Guaranty Fund, if the injured worker meets certain strict notice

timelines. Again, an attorney who is aware of these avenues for coverage—and the time limits—is essential.

Some seasonal employers hire summer help through temp or employment agencies. The worker may be placed with one employer, or may be moved throughout the summer to different employers as the need arises; they may work in one place all summer or a week or two here and there. These young folks may be employees of the temporary agency, and not of the work site employer or may be the employee of the company to whom they are assigned. Again, as with independent contractor versus employee, it depends on who exerts control over the employee at the time of the injury. If an injury occurs, notice as required under the Act should be provided to the worksite employer and the temp agency. The employee cannot assume that the worksite employer will notify the temp agency about the injury or know the temp agency's requirements for medical treatment/panel providers. Any temp employee must be careful to review and keep copies of any paperwork provided at orientation in case an injury occurs during summer employment.

Employees of amusement parks, or other such "seasonal" occupations have a specific calculation for workers' compensation benefits, which includes all compensation from all such "seasonal" occupations over the prior 50 weeks. Therefore, if a student works at the same park and recreation center two summers in a row, and is hurt the second summer, wages from all relevant periods (the prior summer and any possible holiday seasonal employment) would be considered

to calculate the average weekly wage and the compensation rate. When

the injured employee receives the Statement of Wages, the period of time and wages considered must be reviewed, to make sure all relevant wages are included. The worker should advise his/her attorney that the seasonal employment was for more than just the current summer.

In the case of an injured worker under age 18, Child Labor Laws may also apply. There are some employment positions in which minors are not permitted to be employed. Therefore, these "illegally employed minors" may be entitled to additional compensation if injured and if the responsible employer knew or should have known that the minor was not employed legally. Of course there are exceptions to this rule, so small employers like family businesses should investigate the permitted employments before doing summer

It is also essential to remember that there is no "waiting" or "probationary" period for workers' compensation, so an employer who advises an employee injured the third week of work that they are not covered because of such period is providing incorrect information.

Young people employed during summer vacation may have the protections of workers' compensation available. If an injury occurs, they should not allow the employer to try to avoid its obligations. Too often significant injuries occur in summer positions and ongoing medical treatment is required. It is essential for these employees to know their rights!

BLAUFELD SCHILER & HOLMES LLP 810 PENN AVE, SUITE 700 PITTSBURGH, PA 15222 412-391-0775/1-800-343-9384

bsh@bshlaw.net



#### Westmoreland County Senior Games, May 2-12

The Westmoreland County Senior Games is celebrating 40 years of fun and fitness at Mammoth Park and several other central Westmoreland area locations May 2-12, 2023. Any person 50 years of age or older is eligible to participate in any of the 34 events. Westmoreland County residency is not required to participate in the events.

Registration for the Senior Games costs \$10. All pre-registered participants will receive a Senior Games t-shirt and a free picnic lunch at Mammoth Park on Thursday, May 4 and Monday, May 8. Participants can also register on-site at any event.

Events include high and low impact activities, such as boccie, bowling, canoeing, corn hole, cycling, darts, golf, horseshoes, running, pickle ball, shuffleboard, and swimming. Many of the events will divide athletes into age brackets: 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, and 90 plus. Medals are awarded to the top three finishers in each event and age bracket. There is also an Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 12 honoring the year's sportsmen and women as voted on by the athletes.

Since 1983, the slogan of the Westmoreland County Senior Games has been "Bring a Friend for Fun and Fitness." The Games are more about fun and fitness than serious competition, and one does not have to be a super athlete to participate. Most of the participants come for the camaraderie of the games and enjoy competing with friends and meeting new people. The ultimate goal of the games is to encourage an active lifestyle and continued participation in recreational activities beyond age 50.

The Westmoreland County Senior Games are sponsored by Somerset Trust Company, UPMC For Life, Cloverleaf Communities, Gulisek Construction, Westmoreland County Housing Authority, and Westmoreland Manor. To request a registration booklet, call the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation at (724) 830-3950, or download one online by visiting the County Parks' website at www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks.



PRO Act ProtestPetition: Pass the Richard L. Trumka PRO Act

Petition: Pass the Richard L. Trumka PRO Act If we want to build up worker power, our outdated labor laws must keep up with the times. Support our workers. Take 30 seconds to add your name in support of the PRO Act.

ADD YOUR NAME

CAN I BE REIMBURSED FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA UNDER WORKERS' COMPENSATION? By: Rhett Cherkin, Esq.

The law in Pennsylvania on reimbursement for medical marijuana under worker's compensation is in the midst of changing—the Commonwealth Court recently held that medical marijuana treatment is a reimbursable medical expense if it is a reasonable and necessary treatment for a work-related injury.

Pennsylvania recognizes that medical marijuana can be a viable alternative to narcotic pain medication to mitigate pain and potentially enhance patient's quality of life. However, even after legalizing medical marijuana, injured workers seeking reimbursement of medical marijuana under their Worker's Compensation claim were denied—even when their doctors prescribed it.

This changed March 24, 2023, when the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court in Fegley v. Firestone Tire & Rubber held that a Worker's Compensation carrier is required to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for reasonable and necessary use of medical marijuana to treat a work-related injury.

Looking to Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana Act, the court determined that patients should not be denied "any right[s] for [their] lawful use of marijuana," including the right

to reimbursement of reasonable and necessary treatment under the Worker's Compensation Act such as medical marijuana. Therefore, when a judge finds medical marijuana treatment to be reasonable and necessary, reimbursement of these expenses cannot be denied.

This is a monumental decision for injured workers seeking alternative therapy for pain management, but is unlikely to be the last word on the issue. Foreshadowing further disagreement, the dissenting judge in the case, Judge Fizzano, found that Worker's Compensation carriers cannot be required to reimburse medical marijuana treatment, and because medical marijuana is illegal at the federal level it cannot be a reasonable and necessary treatment. However, the majority opinion disagreed on both points, explaining in part that although marijuana is still illegal on the federal level, simply requiring reimbursement of medical marijuana as a treatment would not force the Worker's Compensation carrier to break federal law. This decision will likely be appealed to the Supreme Court, but for now the law requires reimbursement for reasonable and necessary medical marijuana treatment.

Navigating your Worker's Compensation claim to determine whether your treatment will be paid can be stressful and complex. For this reason, if you sustain a workrelated injury, it is important to retain an experienced Worker's Compensation attorney to help you seek benefits. The law firm of Caroselli Beachler Coleman has been practicing in the area of worker's compensation law for over 50 years. We offer free consultations and can meet at a location convenient to you. If you, a family member, or friend has suffered a work-related injury, give us a call at 1-800-222-8816.

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# Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Serving our affiliated Local Unions in Erie and Crawford Counties in Pennsylvania, since 1960.

32 West Eight Street - Suite 502 - Erie, Pennsylvania 16501 Phone (814) 455-4752 - Fax (814) 455-4192

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Thursday, May 11, 2023, the Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council's Community Services Committee will hold their 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet at the Polish Falcons Nest #610, 431 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 16507 Erie, PA. Banquet tickets are \$25.00 and may be reserved by using the ticket reservation sheet attached.

Four Meat buffet, Parsley Potatoes, salad, hot vegetable, dessert, rolls and butter, coffee.

Cocktails at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM.

# This year we will be honoring Ron Oliver. A very good friend of working families and Organized Labor.

The John "David Dever Memorial Scholarship, Theo Sabin Meyer Memorial Scholarship and Tom Wagner Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to the winners of our Essay Contest open to high school seniors.

Funds to support our Scholarship and Community Service Projects (this includes a Veteran's Breakfast, and Christmas dinner and gifts for the homeless) are raised through the publication of advertisements in our 8.5 x 11 banquet program book. *Place an advertisement using the form on the next page to help support us!!* 

We remember that no one was ever "honored for what he received" but we know that "honor is the reward" for what we give. We hope you will be inspired to purchase a \$25.00 banquet ticket. Please encourage your union, your place of work, your representatives, your families, and friends to support the Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council's Community Service Committee by buying tickets to the May 11, 2023, event and by purchasing advertisements in our banquet program.

Contacts, Jack Lee jacklee21 O@yahoo.com 814-823-9940
Geoff Groce Scribe 1977@gmail.com 814-790-0178
Mike Butler Oldtech50 l@yahoo.com eriecrawfordelc@aol.com 814-455-4752

In Solidarity,
Jack Lee, Roofers 210
Erie Crawford CLC President

Please mail your payments f	or banquet tickets and/or y	our advertisement to:		
32 West Enclosed	wford CLC, Attn: Geoff Gr t 8 <sup>Ⅲ</sup> St., Suite 502, Erie, PA d check # for uet tickets to the address	\ 16501 tickets.		
Name				
Address				
City	State	Zip		
ADVERTISING CONTRACT				
THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMIT	TEE OF ERIE-CRAWFORD	CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO		
Organization or Business Name:		_		
Contact Person	Phone	Fax		
	RATES			
Full Page (7 x 9.5 inches)	\$150.00			
Half Page (7 x 4.75 inches)	\$75.00			
Quarter Page (3.5 x 4.75 inches)	\$50.00			
Business Card (3.5 x 2 inches)	\$25.00			
If possible Please submit camera-ready art (high resolution/jpeg/tiff/PDF) Or email me your attached.				

DEADLINE: April 28,2023

Thank you, JackLee. Jacklee210@yahoo.com 814-823-9940



#### Robert Reich

The Amazon Labor Union won its first union election ever in the U.S., and workers at nearly 300 Starbucks stores in 37 states have voted to unionize. A resurgent American labor movement is being spearheaded by folks who work at Starbucks and Amazon.

After Starbucks was busted by the National Labor Relation Board (NLRB) for their unprecedented campaign against workers, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz was subpoenaed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, chaired by Senator Bernie Sanders, to testify about illegal union-busting activities.

Right before he testified, Schultz stepped down from his role as CEO, signaling exactly how worried Starbucks was about the Senate hearing.

Now it's Jeff Bezos' turn.
Together with recently-installed Amazon CEO Andy Jassy, Jeff Bezos, Executive Chairman of Amazon, must also be held accountable by the HELP Committee for Amazon's intensive union-busting practices.

So far, the Amazon Labor Union has filed over 400 unfair labor practice complaints against Amazon with the NLRB. Amazon has spent over a million dollars to fight the union, firing organizers in other warehouses, blanketing workers with anti-union propaganda, and having organizers arrested while legally organizing workers at a public bus stop.

It's time to get Bezos and Jassy under oath. Sign the petition asking Chairman Bernie
Sanders to subpoena Amazon's
Jeff Bezos and Andy Jassy to testify about their union-busting activities now!

#### **ADD YOUR NAME**

Amazon is one of the biggest companies in the world, with net revenues last year over \$500 billion, and Bezos himself is one of the richest man in the world -- yet Amazon's essential warehouse workers suffer unsafe and abusive conditions.

Instead of investing in its workers, Amazon chooses to invest its massive profits in purchasing new companies to further expand its market domination.

We need to hear from Bezos and Jassy about the illegal firings and intimidation campaigns conducted by Amazon as they have attempted to thwart union organization efforts across the country.

Like Starbucks, Amazon has repeatedly been found guilty of violating labor laws. They are doing everything they can to stop the momentum of the Amazon Labor Union. Putting Jeff Bezos on the witness stand would be a major step forward in highlighting these abuses -- and potentially finally making them stop.

The Senate committee's subpoena power is an important tool in the fight to bring to light corporate abuses and illegal suppression of worker initiatives and let's be clear: Jeff Bezos is not going to testify without a subpoena. Encourage HELP Committee Chair Bernie Sanders to utilize this powerful tool and subpoena Jeff Bezos and Andy Jassy by adding your name now.

Organizing momentum is building beyond just Amazon and Starbucks workers.

After decades of stagnation, the American labor movement is once again on the move, gathering the energies of workers at Home Depot, Apple, Trader Joe's, Chipotle, and others.

But without congressional action holding Amazon accountable, that momentum could be stopped in its tracks. That's why we must stand in solidarity with the Amazon Labor Union now.

Together let's work to help improve workers' lives.

Robert Reich Inequality Media Civic Action



# DOBUY

# Spring Cleaning

As hard as it may be to believe, spring is just around the corner. And that means it is just about time for some spring cleaning. If you plan to join in the ritual, here are some union-made cleaning products to help you get your home a union style sparkle and shine.

- » Ajax Laundry Detergent
- » Ajax Cleaning Powder
- » ALL Laundry Detergent
- » Arctic Bright Bleach
- » Blanco Bleach
- » Bowl Fresh Toilet Bowl Sanitizer
- » Clorox Bleach Tabs
- » Clorox
- » Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
- » Dynamo Laundry Detergent
- 2 LABEL LETTER JAN-FEB 2021

- » Fab Laundry Detergent
- » Fiberguard Carpet Cleaners
- » Final Touch Fabric Softener
- » Fresh Start Laundry Detergent
- » HiLex Bleach
- » J.R. Watkins Laundry Detergent
- » J.R. Watkins Naturals
- » Lysol
- » Love My Carpet
- » Mini Safe Scour

- » Minwax
- » Mop & Glo
- » Mountain Pine
- » Palmolive Dishwashing Soap
- » Palmolive
- » Purex Laundry Products
- » Snuggle
- » Spic N' Span Clean Wipes
- » Soft Scrub
- » Sunlight
- » Tide Soap
- » Top Job Household Bleach
- » Wisk



# **Indiana-Armstrong Central Labor Council**AFL-CIO

#### **Golf Tournament Scramble**

Meadow Lane Golf Course 510 Hamill Road, Indiana, PA 15701

Sunday, June 11, 2023



Registration opens at 11:45 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

\$85.00 per golfer

ا آڻ	Please complete the form below ar	return with payment to the address shown below before June 1, 2023.
Name		
Organ		
City,	State, Zip	
Phone **		Email
•	Yes, I will attend. Below are to Please reserve tickets	e members of our group who will be participating in the tournament. at \$85.00 per person.
G	olfer's Name	Phone  [not] office; in case of last-minute changes due to covid. etc.)
1		
3.		
4.		
•	would like to be a sponsor at Gold Sponsor (Includes promotion on CLC's v	he following level: 200.00 ebsite for 1 year, recognition as gold sponsor and preferred sign placement at golf outing)
	Bronze Sponsor	
•	Donated promotional items:	
	ease make checks payable to:	Indiana-Armstrong CLC, P.O. Box 104, Lucernemines, PA 15754. Cal Cecconi (724-388-0316) or Rachel Sternfeld (315-209-0002).

 $\label{thm:condition} {\sf Proceeds\ benefit\ the\ Indiana-Armstrong\ Central\ Labor\ Council's\ General\ Fund\ and\ COPE\ Fund.}$ 



Saturday, May 11th



# FOOD DRIVE





















NWPA Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO 1276 Liberty St. Ste 2 Franklin, PA 16323 NON-PROFIT U. S. Postage PAID ERIE, PA PERMIT No. 184



National Nurses United

Please help, this just can't wait. Can you join NNU's network of activists today and call your representatives to ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (S 1176/H.R. 2663) that was just re-introduced last week by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)?

It'll only take a moment and we even have a handy script available for you to use here:

Call the House hotline at: 202-559-1122

Sample script:

Hi my name is Rosann. I am a constituent and I'm a nurse/other health care worker/patient/community supporter/\_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling today to ask you to protect health care workers and patients by signing on as a cosponsor of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. or S.1176/H.R. 2663. This important legislation would make health care facilities safer for health care workers and patients. Please commit to passing this bill and sign on as a co-sponsor of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

Health care is the most dangerous field of work due to workplace violence. In nationwide surveys conducted by National Nurses United (NNU), the nation's largest union of registered nurses, the majority of nurses (81.6%) reported having experienced at least one workplace violence incident in the past year.

That's why it's critical that we come together as advocates and organize to pass the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act.

As a union, we've been fighting for stronger workplace protections for years, and now all of our collective hard work could come to fruition in the form of a federal standard requiring health care and social service employers to develop and implement comprehensive workplace violence prevention plans.

Can we count on you to call your representatives today and advocate for them to co-sponsor this critical bill?

#### REPORT BACK ON CALL »

Onwards,

Michelle Mahon, RN Assistant Director of Nursing Practice National Nurses United



REPORT BACK ON CALL »