



International Association of Forensic Nurses

Assemblyman Steve Englebright
LOB 712
Albany, NY 12248

Senator Thomas P. Morahan
Office Room 803 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

September 2, 2010

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT for A5414-B and S1823-B

An ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to establishing a private cause of action for an abusive work environment.

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) supports the above referenced bill which would establish a civil cause of action for employees who are subjected to an abusive work environment. IAFN represents nurses throughout the United States and the world who work with victims of interpersonal violence. An abusive work environment is one form of interpersonal violence; and interpersonal violence is a significant public health problem that requires primary prevention strategies to prevent both the immediate and long term health consequences. As part of IAFN's mission statement we seek "to incorporate primary prevention strategies into our work at every level in an attempt to create a world without violence." We support this legislation because we believe policies addressing workplace violence and abuse are an essential part of primary prevention.¹

IAFN strongly urges passage of this legislation that encourages employers to implement policies that will prevent abuse and violence and take immediate action to stop abuse to employees.

Respectfully,

Marie Ann Marino, EdD, RN, PNP
President, IAFN

¹ <http://www.iafn.org/associations/8556/files/Primary%20Prevention%20Brochure.pdf>