



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      November 1, 2023**

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***CONNECTICUT NURSES' ASSOCIATION***

***Stands United to Honor Fallen Nurse, and Advocate for Safer Healthcare Environments***

(East Berlin, Connecticut) – The Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) joined the press conference to pay tribute to the beloved memory of Joyce Elaine Grayson, a dedicated nurse tragically killed while providing patient care. We extend our deepest condolences to her family, loved ones, and colleagues during this difficult time. President Cassandra Esposito emphasized, "Nurses share a special and deep connection; we fully grasp her unwavering dedication to patient care. In healthcare, violence has absolutely no place."

Workplace violence in healthcare is a pressing concern. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare and social assistance workers experience a disproportionately high rate of workplace violence – higher than prison guards. Approximately one in three healthcare workers has experienced incidents of violence, which may range from verbal abuse and harassment to physical assault. The healthcare sector, dedicated to the care and well-being of all, has seen an alarming rise in workplace violence, with one in four nurses experiencing it. This violence threatens the very essence of what healthcare stands for and puts our dedicated healthcare workers at unnecessary risk.

Jennifer Mensick Kenedy, President of the American Nurses Association shares, "Regrettably, it's become a disturbing trend in headlines but has absolutely no place in our profession – this is wholly unacceptable...The very least we can do as a society is to ensure they are protected, supported, and work in safe environments. They absolutely do not deserve to be assaulted or, worse, killed." Stephanie McGuire, Chair of the Government Relations Committee stated, "Workplace violence is a priority for our Association. We will work towards meaningful change, to create a safe place for each healthcare worker to provide care in any setting."

We stand united with nurses, legislators, state agencies, and industry organizations to address this pressing issue head-on. We must create an environment where healthcare professionals can perform their duties without fear, anxiety, or the threat of harm. In honor of our fallen colleague, we pledge to take action and work towards meaningful change.

We encourage the public to wear a white ribbon, to honor Joyce Grayson and healthcare workers.

Since 1904 Connecticut Nurses Association ("the Association") has supported and advanced nursing in Connecticut to achieve healthier communities. Our mission is to protect and advance



the practice of nursing and the health of people in Connecticut. Through advocacy, innovative solutions, and collaborations, we can achieve our mission. Our mission is to “Empower and lead the profession to shape the future of nursing and healthcare in Connecticut. The Association exerts its influence on education, legislation, and the workplace, to protect and advance the practice of nursing and the health of the people in Connecticut. We connect our members to each other, with our collective passion, compassion, power and purpose.”

**[End of Press Release]**

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