



New York State  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
FEDERATION AFL-CIO  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT  
100 State Street, Suite 1070  
Albany, NY 12207

1-800-724-4997  
1-518-432-4003  
Fax: 1-518-432-7739

Kenneth Brynien, *President*

Arlea Igoe, *Secretary Treasurer*

# ***SUPPORT***

**April 8, 2009**  
**S4018\Hassell-Thompson**  
**A3103\Koon**

The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 59,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

This bill would amend the penal law to include registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in the definition of assault on emergency medical professionals. The bill would further increase the penalty for such crimes by providing for a Class C felony charge for resulting physical injuries.

At a time when nurses are fleeing the profession, the State must recognize the conditions that are causing them to do so and take action to reverse the trend. One such condition is the fact that nurses are particularly at risk for violence in the workplace. In the course of their duties, nurses are subject to harassment, intimidation and all too often acts of violence. By adding nurses to the list of covered emergency professionals and by providing for stronger enforcement, this bill protects not just nurses, but also the vital services they provide. If enacted, this bill would demonstrate that assaults against nurses simply will not be tolerated in New York State.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

Brian F. Curran, Legislative Director and Counsel