

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A delegation of members of the New York State Emergency Nurses Association (NYSENA) delivered their legislative priorities for 2010 to the members of the New York State legislature on Tuesday, January 26th. The nurses met and discussed the problem of violence in Emergency Departments (ED) today, and what can be done to reduce it. Violent episodes are a big source of workplace injury in the ED. This impacts emergency nurses and patient care because nurses are taken from the bedside where the care is given. Patients, families, and friends should feel safe in the ED when they come for help, not be threatened with violent individuals.

Safety and medical evaluation of intoxicated and psychiatric patients is another item on the agenda. Environmental engineering and staffing issues need to be addressed in order to maintain a safe and therapeutic area for the mentally ill.

A third legislative priority addresses prevention of trauma through better driving practices. NYSENA applauds the passage of graduated licenses for teen drivers. We urge your continued review of safe driving practices and to consider strengthening DWI laws to include ignition interlock devices. NYSENA has promoted the development of trauma centers, trauma education, trauma prevention programs, including safe driving, "Don't Drink and Drive" programs, and car seat safety.

Emergency nurses urge our state senators and assembly members to consider these issues and make changes which will make emergency care safer and reduce traumatic events requiring emergency care.

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