



NEWS

New York State
Public Employees Federation
AFL-CIO

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

PEF's "Workplace Violence Prevention Bill" signed by Governor

Albany - New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) President Roger E. Benson applauded the signing of PEF's **Workplace Violence Prevention** bill by Governor George E. Pataki.

"The governor has led the fight to reduce violence and crime in our communities," said Benson. "By signing the **Workplace Violence Prevention** bill, he is extending that effort to public-sector work sites."

The **Workplace Violence Prevention** legislation requires public employers with more than 20 employees to assess risk and develop and implement a written plan of action to prevent potential workplace violence.

The bill was sponsored by State Senator Nicholas A. Spano and State Assemblymember Susan V. John.

"Workplace violence is an increasingly visible element in today's workplaces," said Senator Spano. "I am very pleased that Governor Pataki signed this bill into law so that the working men and women of New York State have access to safe and secure workplaces."

"Workplace violence is an ever increasing problem in today's society," said Assemblymember John. "As chair of the Committee on Labor, I am pleased to stand with the members of PEF, and all workers fighting to eliminate violence. Our current economy places more and more pressure on employees, which is leading to a greater number of violent episodes and is currently the leading cause of death among women in the workplace. For the protection of all hardworking families, this legislation is the first line of defense for their safety and I congratulate the governor for his decision to sign this bill into law."

"Each year, thousands of public employees working to provide services in state facilities and institutions are assaulted by clients in their care," Benson said. "This legislation will establish minimum standards to help prevent that."

PEF mounted an aggressive **Stop Workplace Violence Campaign** earlier this year urging the passage of three bills including the **Workplace Violence Prevention** bill. PEF will continue to push the two remaining bills; The **Judi Scanlon** bill (S.207 Maziarz/A.2570 Hoyt) directs that an Office of Mental Health employee who is required to enter the residence of a person with serious mental illness can request to be accompanied by another employee for safety reasons. The **Workplace Injury Disclosure and Accountability** bill, (S.6480 Robach/A.9692 John) amends the Civil Service Law to require that the state Department of Civil Service prepare an annual report about injury rates among state employees due to workplace injuries in state agencies and the costs incurred by the state as a result of those injuries.

PEF is the state's second-largest, state employee union, representing 54,000 professional, scientific and technical employees.

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