



## Health Professionals and Allied Employees

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### HPAE 2021 Convention Resolution Health and Safety

**WHEREAS**, healthcare workers face serious workplace safety and health hazards, including, but not limited to exposure to pathogens, violence, hazardous chemicals, needle sticks, and ergonomic issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID 19 Pandemic is the most catastrophic event that frontline healthcare workers are facing in the history of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID 19 Pandemic has led to thousands of healthcare workers becoming infected, suffering long-term medical and psychological conditions, or death; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare workers are five times more likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than American workers overall, experiencing levels of violence which lead to physical injuries, temporary and permanent disability, psychological trauma, or death; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare workers are exposed to hazardous drugs, chemicals and sanitizing agents that pose the risk of serious injury and illness; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare workers who use or are exposed to needles are at an increased risk for needle stick injury which may lead to serious or fatal infections with blood borne pathogens; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare workers risk serious musculoskeletal ergonomic injury due to the physical demands of work, leading to temporary and permanent disability; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that HPAE will continue to respond to these health and safety hazards in a proactive, comprehensive way to ensure the safety and well-being of all members and patients; and

**RESOLVED**, that HPAE will respond, on the state and local levels, through enforcement of all existing regulations, and laws, and by promoting effective legislation to improve health and safety in all healthcare facilities; and

**RESOLVED**, that HPAE will promote health and safety in the workplace through enforcement of contract language, by negotiating language that improves health and safety outcomes, by mobilizing our members to demand greater protections, and through education; and

**RESOLVED**, the HPAE Health and Safety Committee will develop recommendations and priorities for consideration and adoption by the State Executive Council.