

**SUPPORT BILL 29 – END WORKPLACE HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE**

To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS workplace harassment (physical / psychological) and violence are linked to the mental and physical ill-health, and safety of workers in Ontario;

WHEREAS harassment and violence need to be defined as violations of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* so that it is dealt with as quickly and earnestly by employers as other health and safety issues, and

WHEREAS employers will have a legal avenue and / or a legal obligation to deal with workplace harassment and violence in all its forms, including psychological harassment, and

WHEREAS harassment poisons a workplace; taking many forms – verbal / physical abuse, sabotage, intimidation, bullying, sexual, sexism and racism, and should not be tolerated, and

WHEREAS harassment in any form harms a target’s physical and mental health, esteem and productivity, and contributes to trauma and stress on the job, and

WHEREAS Bill 29 would make it the law to protect workers from workplace harassment by giving workers the right to refuse to work after harassment has occurred, require an investigation of allegations of workplace-related harassment and oblige employers to take steps to prevent further occurrences of workplace-related harassment,

THEREFORE, we the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to treat workplace harassment and violence as a serious health and safety issues by passing MPP Andrea Horwath’s Bill 29, which would bring workplace harassment and violence under the scope of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

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