Good morning,

My name is Nichole Pelton I live in Vienna and I'm 22 years old with a 5-year-old son I have been with RPC since January of 2022   I started on nights and have promoted to a unit manager on days of a forensic floor Our Job duties here at RPC on a day-to-day basis are ANYTHING from physically helping patients shower because they are so disoriented to having to doing physical restrain along with taking verbal threats and abuse I have personally witnessed more assaults than I can count One morning at approx 10am we had a male patient try to jump over the desk while he was unclothed to attack a staff member Just recently on 4/27 a team of us had to physically restrain a patient because he was at risk for hurting himself or others My co-worker took a right jab to the left side of his head then this patient proceeded to wrap his legs around my co-worker and ended up on the floor while we were trying to restrain him to the chair We do not have the tools that CO's have because we are a hospital We don't get handcuffs, tasers, pepper spray You want to know what tools we get to deal with these aggressive dangerous people? we get blue gloves a padded room and "please don't hit me"

I have seen people get bitten, hair get pulled, and those are just the minor ones When your friend leaves by ambulance because their ankle, knee or head have been split open its an eye opener It's no joke what we do here at RPC to take care of the mentally ill, but it comes with a coast I have been sprayed in the face with fire extinguishers I get nightmares about twice a month regarding work I just switched my schedule to help overnights because they are so short staffed   It speaks volumes when my kiddo is begging me not to go into work and to "be safe"   These duties are just a few examples its hard for anyone to do but especially after doing it for so long or being over the age of 55 Like I said this job comes with an unseen coast With that I ask you to support bill 1761

Thank you,

Nichole Pelton

LS MHW III