

The University of Chicago Medical Center takes the national issue of physical and sexual assault in the workplace very seriously and has always been committed to and focused on the safety of all of our staff, including nurses. Nurses are critical to our care team; without them, we would not be able to serve our community and patients.

The University of Chicago Medical Center regrets that WGN has decided to use a flawed survey reportedly conducted by the National Nurses United union. The "survey" was not compiled by a neutral party or agency with polling expertise. In addition, the unscientific methods of the "survey" have never been fully shared with the Medical Center, and only a very small percentage of the institution's roughly 2,000 professional nurses appear to have participated in the "survey."

The University of Chicago Medical Center has long had robust policies and processes in place both to protect nurses and other employees from this type of behavior as well as to immediately mobilize in response to an employee report of assault — including through partnering with law enforcement when appropriate. Further, the Medical Center earlier this year took the initiative to build upon its long history of proactively seeking to protect employees, patients, and their families by forming a committee drawn from a cross-section of our community that is devoted to issues of workplace safety for our staff. The committee — which includes nurses, public safety officers, doctors, and other employees — has been empowered to study precisely these types of issues, draw upon local and national resources to support their work and make recommendations on additional steps to ensure all employees are safe.

The Medical Center encourages and supports reporting regarding this very serious and important issue. The Medical Center is aware that such events have occurred at hospitals and elsewhere in this country, takes seriously any reports of specific incidents, and believes even one physical or sexual assault would still be too many.