

**Covid-Occupational Disease for Nurses Bill -HB #297-Sponsor: Representative Caferro
Executive Action**

February 19th, 2021 at 10:41:08 in HOUSE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Vice Chair Buttrey-Mr. Chair, I motion a do pass on House Bill #297 (standard opening motion)

Mr. Chairman, this is by Representative Caferro. It deals with workers' compensation and nurses. It gives nurses presumptive eligibility for Covid. That it would be presumed to have been contracted within the employer facility.

Chairman Noland: You heard the motion... Is there any discussion? No amendments.

Gist: Thank you Mr. Chair. Being a nurse myself and talking to some of my colleagues, this bill only addresses nurses and the nursing profession. It did not cover all the other fire, EMS, housekeeping, doctors, lab tech, Xray techs, RTs, ER techs, CNAs with that being in mind being a team, I will be a No on this.

Novak: Mr. Chair, I want to speak in support of this bill. And I wholehearted agree with Representative Gist that there a lot of front-line workers who have put themselves in the line of fire over the last year as they do every day in the healthcare industry, but I think it is a step in the right direction. And, I took a pledge that I would fully support my constituents who work in those capacities especially the nurses. This is just really to honor them. I think it is a step forward.

Seekins-Crowe: Mr. Chair, and thank you very much. While I do appreciate what emergency workers and folks in the hospital have done over the past year, ... I just find the language in this bill would eventually be a MT trial lawyers dream, and for that I will vote No.

Galloway: I have to come out in not support this for two facts. The fact is that It opens the door for what about all the rest of front-line workers, and then also the burden of any of these claims would be put upon all the other employers ...

The Chair asks for a roll call vote to move this bill out of committee and be heard on the House floor.

Vice-Chair Buttrey-No	Gunderson-No
Vice-Chair Sullivan-Yes	Harvey-Yes
Abbott-Yes	Loge-Yes
Anderson-No	Marshall-No
Curdy-Yes	Novak-yes
Duram-No	Olsen- I want to say thank you to all those nurses and vote Yes.
Fitzgerald-No	Seekins-Crowe-No
Funk-Yes	Whiteman-Pena-Yes
Galloway-No	Zolnikov-No
Gist-No	Chair Noland-No

HB #297 fails to move out of committee as 11 representatives voted No and only 9 voted Yes.

Vice-Chair Buttrey then moved to table #HB 297 (which kills the bill). The entire committee voted yes.

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and press "CTRL" when you click!! Start video at time: **10:41:08.**