



April 14, 2025

Ryan Towns
Safety and Health Technical Advisor
Public Employment Risk Reduction Program
PERRPComplaint@ohio.gov
VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr. Towns,

I am writing to formally appeal the closure of Complaint #1117660 regarding the December 27, 2024, security breach at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC).

We strongly dispute the conclusion that this matter has been adequately addressed. While the employer submitted a lengthy response outlining procedural updates, the evidence shows that serious, life-threatening hazards persist—and are escalating.

Since the last PERRP complaint, during which a hazard letter was issued, OSU staff have continued to report incidents of violence, threats, and security breakdowns across the entire medical center, including ambulatory areas and procedural units. Attached to this appeal, you will find:

- Workplace Violence (WPV) specific Assignment Despite Objection (ADO) form data submitted by staff nurses since the previous complaint.
- A summary of OSU nurse survey results, revealing widespread fear, trauma, and deep concern for personal safety.
- A photo showing a knife that entered the facility and made it into a surgical operating room—even after the employer's so-called corrective measures were put in place.
- A photo of a visitor entering the premises with a large hunting knife visibly strapped to his belt.

While we are shocked that a knives have made it into the facility, let us be clear: loaded, deadly firearms are entering this hospital. This is not a hypothetical threat—it is happening, and it is terrifying. We also had a dementia patient enter the emergency room with a box cutter and a C clamp hidden in his adult diaper last week. When the wand at security alerted, he simply told the security guards that he had a metal hip, and they let him pass.

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Many of our patients are immobile and defenseless. Nurses and health professionals often have no place to hide, no place to shield ourselves from gunfire. The hospital's newer buildings have narrower egress points and increased vertical height, which only makes us more vulnerable in an active shooter scenario. There is no realistic ability to flee or take cover in a timely way.

This isn't just a failure of process. It's a failure of basic human decency.

Meanwhile, we watched OSUWMC enhance security for the gift shop during the national college football championship—to prevent monetary loss. Where is that urgency when it comes to protecting human life?

We are calling on PERRP and the State of Ohio to stand with us and not abandon the workers who make this hospital run. Do not send the message that our lives—or the lives of those we care for—don't matter. Do not allow hospital executives to hide behind the Block "O" logo while they sit in safe, secure executive suites, far removed from the daily reality we face.

We demand:

- A full and independent investigation into OSUWMC's ongoing and worsening security failures.
- Real accountability and enforceable oversight—not just policy memos and symbolic fixes.
- Immediate action to ensure the safety of all public employees working in these facilities.

We cannot and will not accept a workplace where violence is normalized, and our safety is treated as optional. This complaint must remain open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Pompeii RN-BC".

Amy Pompeii, RN-BC
President, Ohio State University Nurses Organization

Please also include Kristen Bailey on all future communications regarding this matter:

Kristen Bailey, ONA Director Organizing & Field Services
kbailey@ohnurses.org
(614) 226-9581



Attachments:

- WPV ADO Data (since previous hazard letter)
- OSU Nurse Survey Summary
- Photo Evidence: Knife in OR
- Photo Evidence: Visitor with Visible Weapon
- Reference: Complaint #1117660