



September 5, 2017

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Dear Colleagues,

We are among the 3.8 million nurses in this country who witnessed the deeply troubling manner in which our colleague, Alex Wubbels RN, was treated when fulfilling the duties of her position. We respect Ms. Wubbels for her professionalism and courage in refusing to compromise her nursing ethics and the institutional procedures aimed at protecting the rights of patients during this confrontation. We are in full support of statements made by both the American Nurses Association and Utah State Nurses Association.

The American Psychiatric Nurses Association is encouraging our members to review this event and use it an opportunity to initiate an appraisal of the procedures that govern or apply to interactions between nurses and law enforcement. This is an occasion to affirm the many excellent and supportive relationships between nursing and law enforcement. It also serves as an opportunity to employ the less desirable circumstances of these events as a teaching moment to improve understanding and set in place procedures to reduce further occurrences.

It is important for nursing to take a leadership role and an active voice. The treatment we witness in the videos of Ms. Wubbels require that all nurses speak out. Silence in the face of intimidation encourages further intimidation. We have a responsibility to do all we can to encourage and facilitate civility in all our interactions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris A. McLoughlin".

Kris A. McLoughlin, DNP, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN  
President