

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2416 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Ruppersberger and Kinsinger:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes in support of H.R. 5855, the Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act.

Your bill would establish a federal grant program through the Department of Health and Human Services to fund violence prevention programs in locations across the nation. The funds authorized by this bill could be used to initiate programs or expand existing programs at state-designated trauma centers, trauma centers verified by the American College of Surgeons, or other entities that operate programs linked to those trauma centers. The bill also would allow funds to be used to study the effectiveness of services, and examine impacts on reincarceration and re-admittance rates.

The AHA is committed to helping our members prevent and reduce community violence. We have created a specific initiative, Hospitals Against Violence, focused on combating violence in all its forms. A critical component of this initiative features tools for the hospital field, including programs, webinars, and a dedicated website to share information and resources that address everything from conducting risk assessments to emergency response best practices. Your bill would provide valuable resources for hospitals to implement violence prevention programs that will help further our mission to improve the overall health of the communities we serve.

We thank you for your leadership in introducing the Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act. We look forward to working with you to secure enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

