

AMERICA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Manchin and Rubio:

On behalf of our nation's hospitals and health systems, we are writing in support of your legislation, the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act (S. 2768), which would provide federal protections for health care workers who are victims of violence in the workplace.

Although our members have for many years had protocols in place designed to protect their employees and promote a safe environment for patient care, the number of violent attacks against health care workers has increased markedly in recent years. Recent studies¹ indicate that 44% of nurses have reported being subjected to physical violence and 68% have reported verbal abuse. These experiences affect the individual provider, who may suffer from both physical and psychological trauma, and they can also interfere with care delivery when providers fear for their personal safety, are distracted by disruptive patients or family members, or are traumatized from prior violent interactions. These types of incidents also consume scarce hospital and health system resources, which in turn could impact the care available for other patients.

The SAVE Act would provide protections from assault for hospital workers, similar to those in the federal statute that apply to aircraft and airport workers.

We are grateful for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to enact the SAVE Act.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Hospital Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Federation of American Hospitals
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Premier Inc.
Vizient, Inc.

¹ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/21650799211031233>