



SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE FOR HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES **(SAVE) ACT (H.R. 2584/S. 2768)**

There has been a steady rise in incidents of workplace violence against healthcare workers, particularly over the past two years. Since 2022, two orthopaedic surgeons have tragically lost their lives in incidents involving a patient. Additionally, a recent [article](#) in the Associated Press reported that healthcare workers experience nonfatal injuries from workplace violence at higher rates than any other field, including law enforcement.

The Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act would establish legal penalties for assaulting or intimidating hospital employees or those contracted by a hospital. The penalties are modeled after current protections for aircraft and airport workers. These enhanced penalties are intended to deter an uptick in violence and threats towards healthcare workers seen across the country.

In particular, the SAVE Act would:

- Establish federal, criminal penalties for those who knowingly assault and intimidate hospital employees or those contracted by a hospital. The bill includes enhanced penalties for the use of a dangerous weapon that results in injury and acts committed during a public emergency. The bill also carves out exceptions for individuals who may be mentally incapacitated due to illness or substance use.
- In the House version only, authorize \$25 million in grant funding each fiscal year for 10 years to reduce violence and intimidation in hospitals. Funds may be used for training, law enforcement coordination, and technology.

Physicians and other healthcare workers have sustained significant harm during the pandemic, and this stress is significantly magnified when the patients they treat respond in an inappropriate and aggressive manner. Many have left the profession leaving staffing shortages across the country. Healthcare workers must be protected from violence to ensure adequate access for Americans to continue to receive care in their communities.

Why the SAVE Act Matters:

Threats of workplace violence or actual violence against healthcare workers can make it difficult for physicians to continue to provide quality patient care. These interactions can tie up valuable resources and delay the care patients may need urgently.

What Congress Should Do:

The AAOS recommends supporting the SAVE Act (H.R. 2584/S. 2768) to protect healthcare workers from workplace violence.