



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
OCCUPATIONAL AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re:** *Support for Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*

Dear Senator Baldwin and Representative Courtney:

On behalf of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine ([ACOEM](#)), I write to endorse the reintroduction of your legislation, the *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*, in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Founded in 1916, ACOEM is the nation's largest medical society dedicated to promoting employee health through preventive medicine, clinical care, research, and education. The College represents more than 4,000 physicians and other healthcare professionals specializing in occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) who are devoted to preventing and managing occupational injuries and championing workers' health, safety, and well-being.

Many of our members practice in medical centers and have first-hand experience with workplace violence. Health care and social service workers face the highest risk of violence on the job because of their direct contact with patients and client care. These professions also face the highest rate of serious injury due to workplace violence, at a rate of 13.7 per 10,000 workers, compared with 2.9 for all workers.

ACOEM supports directing OSHA to establish a standard requiring health care and social service employers to write and implement a workplace violence prevention plan to protect employees. An enforceable OSHA standard is necessary to prevent foreseeable and life-altering violence against workers in hospitals, medical clinics, nursing homes, home health agencies, and social service settings.

Extensive research shows that these acts are both predictable and preventable. Protecting our country's caregivers is critical as they are on the frontlines of helping the sick, the elderly, and the mentally ill. We cannot turn a blind eye to the heightened risk of workplace violence physicians, nurses, and other health professionals face on a day-to-day basis.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact [Dane Farrell](#), ACOEM's Director of Government Affairs, at (703) 989-4734 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Martin, MD, FAADEP, FAAFP, FACOEM  
President  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)