



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
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June 20, 2022

The Honorable Madeline Dean
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Dean and Bucshon:

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) writes to offer our support for the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act of 2022. When enacted it will make it a federal crime to assault or intimidate a hospital employee.

The AARC and the respiratory therapists we represent are frontline health care professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic and in all hospital settings. Our exposure to violence as a profession deserves the protections afforded by the SAVE Act of 2022. Thank you for your leadership in offering health care workers this important protection.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated an increasing trend in violent incidents in the health care sector from 2011 to 2018, with almost three quarters of all nonfatal injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work occurring among health care workers. Unfortunately, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, incidences of workplace violence against health care workers has skyrocketed. Despite the diligent efforts of hospitals and health systems to prevent violence, health care workers remain five times more likely than any other type of worker to experience a physical attack on the job. Violence in the health care setting has implications far beyond the injuries sustained by our workforce.

Despite the proliferation of workplace violence and its deleterious effects on our health care system, we do not have a federal law that protects health care workers from assault or intimidation. Your efforts with the SAVE Act will help create a safer environment, deterring violent behavior and ensuring that offenders face severe consequences for their actions.

The AARC appreciates your leadership, and we look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheri Tooley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheri Tooley BSRT, RRT, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CPFT, FAARC
President and CEO 2021-2022