

A close-up photograph of a healthcare worker wearing blue scrubs, a blue surgical cap, and a white face mask. They are looking down, focused on a task. The background is blurred, showing a clinical setting.

# Reduce Workplace Violence in Healthcare Settings

The unique features of emergency departments leave staff especially vulnerable to workplace violence. A key aspect of reducing violence against medical personnel is to ensure that the perpetrators of such violence face serious consequences. **To protect the emergency workforce, the Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) urges Congress to advance the bipartisan *Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act (H.R.2584/S.2768).***

## **Request**

To help reduce workplace violence against healthcare professionals, EDPMA urges co-sponsorship of the *Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act (H.R.2584/S.2768)*





## Reduce Workplace Violence

Safety from Violence for Healthcare  
Employees (SAVE) Act  
(H.R.2584/S.2768)

### Background

From 2002 to 2013, incidents of serious workplace violence were four times more common in the healthcare field than in private industry on average. The vast majority (80%) of serious violent incidents reported in healthcare settings were caused by interactions with patients. Emergency departments have unique features that put their personnel at high risk for workplace violence. Emergency care is accessible around the clock and is often delivered in a high-stress environment, in which medical professionals encounter patients and patients' family members in crisis moments.

The bipartisan *Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act* would enhance criminal penalties for individuals who commit violence against medical personnel in healthcare settings. Individuals who knowingly assault or intimidate a health care professional in a manner that interferes with the performance of the professional's duties or limits their ability to perform those duties could receive up to ten years imprisonment. Enhanced penalties – up to twenty years – would apply for acts against healthcare personnel involving a dangerous weapon or resulting in bodily injury, or for acts against healthcare personnel during a public health emergency. By clearly delineating serious legal consequences for violence against medical personnel, these provisions will equip law enforcement and prosecutors to hold perpetrators accountable and create a safer workplace for the emergency medicine workforce.

The Save Act is led in the House by Representative Bucshon (R-IN-8) and Representative Dean (D-PA-4), and in the Senate by Senator Manchin (D-WV) and Senator Rubio (R-FL).

### About EDPMA

EDPMA is the nation's only professional trade association focused on the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective care in the emergency department. EDPMA's membership includes emergency medicine physician groups of all sizes, billing, coding, and other professional support organizations that assist healthcare clinicians in our nation's emergency departments. Together, EDPMA members see or support 60% of all annual emergency department visits in the country. For more info, please visit [EDPMA.org](http://EDPMA.org).

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