

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 1863

Protect Healthcare Workers from Violence

What can you do to help?

Contact your state representatives.

Three easy steps once you scan the QR code:

- Edit the email template right on the webpage to include your reasons why this bill should pass
- Enter your information so it makes it to your representatives
- Send the message

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Why should you send this email before October 24, 2023:

- Legislators need to hear directly from healthcare workers, like you, about the violence being perpetrated against nurses, med/psych technicians, clinicians and other staff at Riverside.
- Healthcare workers deserve the same protections in the law that daycare workers, nursing home employees, and school teachers are currently afforded when assaults occur in those workplaces.
- The Illinois General Assembly will return to Springfield for the fall Veto Session, which is scheduled for Oct. 24-26 and Nov. 7-9. During this session, the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) will advocate for the passage of Senate Bill 1863.

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 1863

Protect Healthcare Workers from Violence

Illinois hospitals report that since the COVID-19 public health emergency began, healthcare providers face increasing numbers of serious assaults and violence in their local Emergency Departments and hospital settings.

- Healthcare workers are **five times** more likely to experience workplace violence than employees from any other industry.
- In one study, **44% of nurses reported experiencing physical violence** while on the job.
- Another analysis found that **two nurses are assaulted every hour** in the United States.
- 85% of emergency physicians believe the rate of violence experienced in EDs has increased over the past five years, and 45% indicate it has greatly increased.

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Violent interactions at healthcare facilities tie up valuable resources and can delay urgently needed care for other patients and increase the potential for adverse medical events.

- Nearly **nine in ten** emergency physicians agree violence in the ER harms patient care (89%).

Assaults and intimidation make it more difficult to retain nurses, doctors, and other clinical staff. Given the national shortage of healthcare professionals, hospitals are already challenged to recruit and retain staff.

- One global survey found that **25% of healthcare workers said they were willing to quit** because of on-the-job violence.

Healthcare leaders will no longer accept the notion that violence in the workplace “comes with the job.”

Senate Bill 1863 clarifies that healthcare workers are provided the same protections in the law as workers in care settings like nursing homes, daycares and schools are currently afforded when assaults occur in those workplaces. The legislation includes violence against a healthcare worker in a healthcare setting as an aggravating factor a judge can consider during sentencing, while providing essential protections for vulnerable populations in healthcare settings that commit violence, if conduct is due to a severe mental illness