

Expand Protections Against Workplace Violence

Workplace Violence is a Serious and Growing Concern.

While health care workers make up **10% of the workforce**, they experience 48% of the nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence. From the most recent data, of every 10,000 health care workers, 14 suffered injuries that kept them from work for at least a day. This is **over three times the average injury rate for all jobs combined**.

Workplace violence impacts both mental health and physical wellbeing. Health care workers who experience workplace violence may also experience suicidal ideation, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and burnout. The negative outcomes not only affect the health care worker but trickle down to patient safety and satisfaction.

What Does LB26 Do?

LB26, introduced by Senator Ballard, would expand increased penalties for assault on health care providers to include any employee of a hospital or health clinic. Current state statute includes increased penalties for assault on a health care provider but is limited to a physician or other licensed health care practitioner. This bill expands the definition of health care provider to include any employee of a hospital or health clinic, recognizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all health care staff, including those in roles such as security and custodial who are equally vulnerable to violence while encountering patients and visitors.

NHA Member Stories:

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In 2024 alone, our hospital system documented 740 separate violent events. 88 resulted in harm or injury to staff.

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Just last weekend, a security officer was attacked, bitten multiple times and patches of hair pulled out.

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Our health care team needs everyone to assist us in aggressive situations. It is not only nurses that are hurt. Security and technicians are assaulted just as much and I cannot imagine doing my job without them.

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My peer came to assist me and was severely injured. Afterward, he was not able to remain in the field as he just did not feel safe.

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**EVERY HARDWORKING
EMPLOYEE IS ESSENTIAL
FOR A FUNCTIONING HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM. THEIR
SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.**