



Maryland
Hospital Association

**Senate Bill 26- Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Revisions
(Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)**

Position: Letter of Information

January 29, 2025

Senate Finance Committee

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to provide information on Senate Bill 26.

According to the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#), workplace violence continues to be a top cause of death in the workplace. OSHA identifies certain job categories, mostly those where an individual is engaging with the public, as being at a higher risk of experiencing workplace violence including nurses, psychiatric evaluators, probation officers, letter carriers, and retail workers. Workplace violence can be a daily occurrence in some work environments like the health care field. The [principal investigator](#) of a recent study that tracked patient aggression in real time said, "staff are confronted with aggressive behaviors practically every time they step foot in the hospital."

SB 26 sends an important message about protecting public employees from dangerous work environments. This legislation also adds a statutory definition of workplace violence. Both are critical to elevate awareness of workplace violence.

Maryland hospitals are committed to raising awareness and preventing workplace violence. This year the Maryland Patient Safety Center, along with the Maryland Health Care Commission and MHA, launched a public awareness campaign called, "[Care Flows Both Ways.](#)" Thanks to state funding from Governor Moore and the Maryland General Assembly, this ad campaign will help raise awareness about challenges health care workers face every day.

As the legislature contemplates how to protect public employees, we encourage the Committee to also consider how to protect employees who are engaging with the public through employment with a private employer. If the state creates a work group or decides to take additional action, on behalf of Maryland's hospitals and health systems, we would like to be included in these efforts.

For more information, please contact:
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