

Joint Statement on Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act

August 15, 2022

Workplace violence for healthcare employees has placed unprecedented stress on the entire healthcare system. There are incidents of healthcare staff being assaulted by patients, family members, and other visitors. These threats have a negative impact on providing the best patient care and all health care employees deserve to work in an environment free of violence.

The American Thoracic Society (ATS), the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) are supportive of the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act, introduced by U.S. Representatives Madeleine Dean, D-Pa., and Larry Bucshon, MD, R-Ind., on June 7 to protect healthcare workers from violence. The bill is modeled after existing protections for aircraft and airport workers. The SAVE Act would criminalize assault or intimidation of hospital employees and provide legal penalties for those who knowingly or intentionally do so.