



**AMSUN Urges Congress to Pass the Workplace Violence
Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
(H.R. 1195 and S. 4182)**

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSUN) is the only specialty nursing organization dedicated to the practice of medical-surgical nursing. AMSUN and its more than 10,000 members represent nurses who have advanced organizational, prioritization, assessment, and communication skills and are leaders in coordinating care among interprofessional health care teams. Medical-surgical nursing is practiced in several settings across the health care industry, including hospitals, outpatient settings, in homes, via telemedicine and other non-traditional settings.

We are deeply concerned by the alarming rise of workplace violence against our nation's nurses and health care professionals and believe that additional federal guardrails are needed to address this growing crisis. Further, we support the advancement of the *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act* to ensure that health care workers have the basic protections and safety standards they need and deserve.

The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act

Nurses and health care practitioners are among the professions with the highest rates of workplace violence. In 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 73% of all nonfatal workplace incidents due to violence were among health care workers. The *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act* requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to address workplace violence in the health care and social service sectors and issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires certain employers to take actions to protect from workplace violence. The legislation was introduced by Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT-2) on February 22, 2021. The House of Representatives passed the bill in April 2021. The Senate bill was introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) on May 11, 2022. The legislation would protect health care workers by:

- Compelling the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a violence prevention standard that requires certain health care and social service employers to develop and implement a violence prevention plan that specifically and comprehensively addresses the conditions and hazards of each workplace or unit.
- Requiring employers to investigate any incident of workplace violence, risk, or hazard and provide training and education to employees who may have been impacted.
- Defining “*workplace violence*” as “the threat, or use of, physical force against an employee that results in, or has a high likelihood of resulting in, injury, psychological trauma, or stress” and defining the “*threat of violence*” as “fear for one’s safety because there is a reasonable possibility an individual might be physically injured.”

Recommendation: AMSUN urges Congress to pass the *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act* (H.R. 1195 and S. 4182).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact AMSUN’s Washington representative, Jim Twaddell at jwaddell@venable.com or 202-344-4358.