



June 22, 2022

The Honorable Madeleine Dean
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 22515

Dear Rep. Dean and Dr. Bucshon,

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is pleased to offer our support for H.R. 7961, the *Safety From Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act*. We are grateful for your attention to this important issue, and thankful for your introduction of this timely legislation.

The American College of Cardiology envisions a world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes. As the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team, the mission of the College and its more than 56,000 members is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC bestows credentials upon cardiovascular professionals who meet stringent qualifications and leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College also provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research through its world-renowned JACC Journals, operates national registries to measure and improve care, and offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions. For more, visit acc.org.

Violence against health workers is unacceptable, and is a national problem that requires a national response. While workplace violence against health workers has always been a concern, the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this problem. In fact, a 2020 Bureau of Labor Statistics report found that the health care occupation had a five-time greater risk of violence than other fields. Despite this, no federal law currently exists to deter health care workplace violence.

Such violence and intimidation not only threaten the safety of workers, but detract from the delivery of high-quality patient care as well. It is essential that we protect those that have dedicated their professional lives to caring for others and ensure their ability to perform their essential duties without the threat of harm to themselves or their patients. The threat of health care workplace violence also negatively impacts clinician wellness and further strains the already contracted health care workforce.

The ACC is thankful for your leadership on this issue and we applaud your efforts to protect the nation's health care workforce. The ACC stands ready to help you advance this critical legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance at RKosh@acc.org.

Sincerely,

Edward T. A. Fry, MD, FACC
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The mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.