



May 10, 2021

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the more than 151,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students represented by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and undersigned specialty and state osteopathic associations and the patients they serve, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act” (H.R. 1195). We are grateful for the House’s passage of this legislation and urge the Senate to do the same.

At a time when so many DOs and other health care professionals are bravely treating patients on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, many have the added burden of growing safety concerns relating to workplace injury and violence. As you know, workplace violence is the third leading cause of job death and results in more than 30,000 serious lost-time injuries each year. This legislation is an important step in improving safety in the workplace by implementing common sense prevention measures which include:

- directing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a federal workplace violence prevention standard to protect workers in health care and social services from injury and death;

- requiring employers in the health care and social service sectors to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan, tailored to specific workplaces and worker populations;
- requiring hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to comply with the new standard as a condition of a Medicare provider agreement; and
- requiring intergovernmental and private-sector mandates by requiring facilities to comply with the OSHA standard.

Lastly, while we are grateful that H.R. 1195 would ensure employers take measures needed to provide a safe working environment, additional actions focused on individuals who commit acts of physical violence against healthcare professionals would serve as an important deterrent in protecting our nation's healthcare workforce. We encourage Congress to consider opportunities to heighten penalties for those committing workplace violence against healthcare professionals.

Our organizations and the physicians whom we represent support this important safety legislation. We appreciate the House passing it and call on the Senate to do the same. We stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

If you have any questions or if our organizations can be a resource, please contact AOA Senior Vice President of Public Policy, David Pugach at dpugach@osteopathic.org or (202) 349-8753.

Sincerely,

American Osteopathic Association

American Academy of Osteopathy

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists

American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians

American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics

American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine

American Osteopathic Association of Prolotherapy Regenerative Medicine

American Osteopathic College of Dermatology

American Osteopathic College of Pathologists

American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Osteopathic College of Radiology

American Osteopathic Society of Rheumatic Diseases

Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association

Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association

Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association

Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society
Indiana Osteopathic Association
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Massachusetts Osteopathic Society
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons