



Wendy D. Darwell, President and CEO

Member Hospitals

Catholic Health

Good Samaritan Hospital
Mercy Hospital
St. Catherine of Siena Hospital
St. Charles Hospital
St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center
St. Joseph Hospital

Long Island Community Hospital

Mount Sinai South Nassau

Nassau University Medical Center

Northwell Health:

Glen Cove Hospital
Huntington Hospital
Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Hospital
Mather Hospital
North Shore University Hospital
Peconic Bay Medical Center
Plainview Hospital
South Shore University Hospital
Syosset Hospital

NYU Langone Hospital Long Island

Stony Brook Medicine:

Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital
Stony Brook Southampton Hospital
Stony Brook University Hospital

June 9, 2022

The Honorable XXX
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman/woman:

On behalf of Long Island's hospitals and health systems, I urge you to cosponsor the bipartisan Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act of 2022, introduced this week by Representatives Madeline Dean (D-PA) and Larry Bucshon (R-IN). This bill will provide healthcare workers with similar protections already provided under federal law to frontline airline staff from abusive passengers and violence in the workplace.

According to OSHA, workplace violence – any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening disruptive behavior that occurs at the work site – is a recognized hazard in the healthcare industry. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data shows that the healthcare industry experiences the highest rates of injuries caused by workplace violence; its employees are five times more likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers overall. Looking specifically at nurses, a 2016 BLS report showed that violent events accounted for 12.2 percent of all reported injuries to registered nurses that year.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our frontline healthcare workers have continued to provide compassionate quality care to their patients while also experiencing a marked increase in workplace violence. The mental and physical toll this pandemic has had on this workforce cannot be ignored or understated. Workplace violence in a healthcare setting causes severe consequences for the entire healthcare system. Frontline healthcare workers cannot provide attentive care when they fear for their personal safety. Increases in violence and intimidation are worsening an already strained workforce. The negative impact on hospital resources can result in interruptions and delays in patient care and quality outcomes.

The surge in assaults on our healthcare workforce cannot continue. This is why I urge you to do everything you can to protect them by cosponsoring the SAVE Act of 2022.

Sincerely,



Wendy D. Darwell
President and CEO