



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	SB 700 – Maryland Department of Health – Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup.
Hearing Date:	March 31, 2022
Position:	Support

Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 700 – Maryland Department of Health – Prevent Work Place Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup*. This bill will establish a workgroup to develop a public awareness campaign on preventing workplace violence in health care settings.

MCHS is a network of federally qualified health centers focused on providing somatic, behavioral, and dental health services to underserved communities. Through the course of the pandemic, MCHS facilities have remained open to support and provide essential care to the 240,606 patients we serve in communities most in need. This could not have been done without our hardworking and steadfast health care workers.

Unfortunately, even before the pandemic, health care workers are and continue to be at an increase risk of workplace violence. Incidents of workplace violence are four times higher in healthcare than other occupations.¹ Violence is often vastly underreported because they only count days that led to time away from work. Health care facilities can reduce violence in the workplace by ensuring proper record keeping, hazard prevention and control, worksite analysis and hazard identification, and safety and health training.²

This bill serves as an important starting point to address workplace violence. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net.

¹ <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/OSHA3826.pdf>

² <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/OSHA3826.pdf>