

SB1158_Marylanders for Patient Rights_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Palmisano

Position: FAV

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB1158: Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)

Marylanders for Patient Rights is a leading advocacy group for patients in our state. We join the Maryland Emergency Nurses Association and the American College of Emergency Physicians in strongly supporting all the goals of SB1158 in protecting people in educational facilities, medical facilities, and places of worship.

My testimony will focus on protecting patients in medical facilities, which is part of the core mission of Marylanders for Patient Rights. In 2019, Hospital Patient's Bill of Rights was passed unanimously by the Maryland General Assembly, and signed into law by the Governor. SB1158 reinforces those rights, in particular, Patient Right #2: The right to be provided care in a safe environment free from all forms of abuse and neglect, including mental, physical, and sexual abuse.

Violence against patients and against medical workers has increased, particularly in the Emergency Department where long waits can lead to anger and frustration. Patients must have a safe place to receive care, and our medical workers must have a safe place to deliver that care. Patients accessing care are in a vulnerable position and should not be subject to any form of abuse in a medical facility, nor should they be afraid to access the medical care they need. SB1158 will make committing a crime of violence in a medical facility, educational institution or place of worship, a felony in order to match the seriousness of the crime.

Please provide a favorable report on SB1158, and help to protect Maryland patients and medical staff.

Thank you,

A C Palmisano

Anna C. Palmisano, Ph.D, Director
Marylanders for Patient Rights
palmscience@verizon.net

SB 1158 - Testimony JPR.pdf

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 1158 – *Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)*

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and to my colleagues on this esteemed committee. For the record, I am Senator C. Anthony Muse, and I am here today to urge this distinguished body to vote favorably on Senate Bill 1158 – the Sacred Places Safety Act of 2024.

SB 1158 establishes statutory definitions for “Sacred Places” in Maryland, and includes:

1. Educational Institutions;
2. Medical Facilities; and
3. Places of Worship

This bill also adds a penalty enhancement on top of any sentence imposed – in cases where a violent act has been committed in one of these designated spaces.

In Prince George’s County, we are confronting growing occurrences of violence in spaces where our community are most vulnerable. There are several notable cases which not only highlights what we’re seeing in the County and across jurisdictions, but also underscores the significance of this legislation:

- **Kaeden Holland AKA “Baby K”**

On May 1, 2023, three teens boarded a school bus in Oxon Hill, Maryland and attacked a student. Mr. Holland, attempted to shoot the victim multiple times. Fortunately, the weapon malfunctioned, and the student survived with only minor injuries. Mr. Holland recently plead guilty, where he is facing up to 25 years.

- **Wilson Chavis**

On June 6, 2023, Wilson Chavis, owner of Compassion and Serenity Funeral Home struck two people after he opened fire during a burial service. One of the victims, died from the injuries. The other victim fortunately survived. Law Enforcement and the Prosecution learned from the investigation is that Mr. Chavis, confronted individuals he’d been in a longstanding dispute with. During the dispute, he pulled out his gun and fired multiple shots which resulted in a fatality. He’s has been charged with 1st Degree Murder and related offenses.

These are just two examples of why this legislation is critical. Our residents deserve to feel safe whether they are going to a place of worship, learning, or celebrating the life of a loved-one.

It is critical that we prioritize the well-being of all our residents and safeguard their ability to worship, learn, or access medical care without fear of being preyed upon at a time where they're most vulnerable. We also want to support those in this state responsible for protecting our communities. SB 1158 accomplishes that and will allow prosecutors to fully hold these individuals accountable.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report for SB 1158.

SB1158_FAV_MDACEP_Crime of Violence - Ed. & Med. F

Uploaded by: Danna Kauffman

Position: FAV



Maryland Chapter

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable C. Anthony Muse

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
410-244-7000

DATE: April 2, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 1158 – *Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)*

The Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), which represents the interests of emergency physicians and their patients throughout the State of Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 1158.

Workplace violence is a preventable and significant public health problem. Optimal patient care can be achieved only when patients, health care workers, and all other persons in the emergency department (ED) are protected against violent acts occurring within the department. In 2022, national ACEP conducted a poll of emergency physicians showing that violence in the ED is on the rise and is increasing rates of healthcare worker burnout and harming patient care. Specifically,

- Eighty-five percent of emergency physicians believe the rate of violence experienced in EDs has increased over the past five years, with 45% indicating it has greatly increased.
- Two-thirds of emergency physicians report being assaulted in the past year alone, while more than one-third of respondents say they have been assaulted more than once.
- One-third of emergency physicians who were assaulted resulted in an injury, an increase of 6% since 2018.
- The number of emergency physicians who missed part of or their entire shift has increased by 50% since 2018.
- According to emergency physicians, the lack of punitive consequences has become a larger factor in the rise of violence since 2018.
- Nearly nine in ten emergency physicians agree violence in the ED harms patient care (89%), a 12-percent increase from 2018.
- Violence in EDs is exacerbating the already high rates of healthcare worker burnout and impacting their mental health.
- Emergency physicians and their care teams deserve a support system that prevents these incidents and protects them when they occur.

Pursuing criminal prosecution, when deemed appropriate, against those individuals who threaten and commit violent acts against health care workers is necessary to protect the integrity of the health care system and ensure that individuals will continue to work in these environments. We respectfully request a favorable vote on Senate Bill 1158.

Senate Bill 1158- Crime of Violence - Educational

Uploaded by: Jennifer Witten

Position: FAV



Date: April 2, 2024

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and the Judicial Proceedings Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 1158- Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 1158.

LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County; Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Secours Hospital), a freestanding medical facility in West Baltimore; and Center for Hope a center of excellence focused on provided hope and services for trauma survivors in Baltimore City.

Threats of violence and acts of violence are increasing in both occurrence and severity in the health care setting. Hospitals, physician offices, pharmacies, clinics, and other sites are open to the public and should be places of refuge and service for individuals who are sick and seeking medical care. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), approximately 75 percent of workplace assaults reported annually occurred in health care settings. Violence-related injuries are four times more likely to cause health care workers to take time off from work than other kinds of injuries, thereby indirectly hampering provision of patient care. The experience of workplace violence has not only physical consequences, but personal, emotional, and professional consequences as well.

LifeBridge Health continuously enhances its processes to prevent workplace violence to protect employees, patients, and visitors. For example, we use electronic systems for reporting and tracking incidents, implement zero tolerance policies, provide training on de-escalation techniques, install expensive surveillance technology and access control systems, add off-duty & special police officers to our rolls, and in high-risk areas, disseminate personal wearable safety alarms, among other interventions.

All personnel are subject to threats in the health care setting, not only clinical personnel such as physicians, nurses, and therapists, but also patient transporters, admissions, financial counselors, food service, environmental services, social workers, security officers, patient advocates, and many others. Threats occur from patients, families, and visitors. For example, visitors who don't want to leave when visiting hours end threaten and/or assault clinical and security staff. Family members threaten to kill a surgeon or nurse who treat a gunshot patient if the patient dies.

CARE BRAVELY

Patients or visitors threaten staff transporting a patient for a procedure, or a patient advocate trying to console them. Even security personnel dispatched to assist staff have been threatened. We want to ensure that places that provide critical healthcare services for patients and staff are safe.

Our clinicians cannot work in fear while attempting to save lives. Our organization has taken violence prevention seriously and put processes in place to prevent this violence from occurring, but it is not enough. Our staff- nurses, providers, security, administrative team members- require your support to halt the threats of violence and intentional violence we experience every day.

For all the above stated reasons, we request a Favorable Report for SB1158.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Witten, M.B.A.

Vice President, Government Relations & Community Development

jwitten2@lifebridgedhealth.org

SB1158_CecilCountyChamberofCommerce_McRay_Favorabl

Uploaded by: Jess Solak

Position: FAV



Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
216 E. Pulaski Hwy, Suite 120
Elkton, Maryland 21921
April 1, 2024

Senate Bill 1158

Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty
(Sacred Places Safety Act)

LEGISLATIVE POSITION: Request Favorable Report

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce and our four hundred and fifty member companies representing over fifteen thousand employees, we are writing to express our support of **SB 1158**, which, if enacted, would make it a felony if someone commits and is found guilty of a crime of violence in an educational facility, medical facility or place of worship.

We believe it is imperative that employees, students, patients and parishioners should not fear or be vulnerable to violent crime in educational and health care facilities or places of worship.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in 2018 73% of all non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses due to violence were suffered by health care workers. The Bureau also reports that health care workers are five times more likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers in private industry.

In Cecil County, ChristianaCare's Union Hospital reports that RNs at the hospital are experiencing physical assaults in the course of performing their work duties despite efforts undertaken by the hospital to keep their staff safe. Our dedicated health care workers deserve every step that can be taken to reduce the risk of violence in their workplace.

Allowing for the imposition of stiff penalties for acts of violence in such settings provides for consequences that we expect will help deter such acts.

For the reasons noted above, we respectfully **request a favorable report.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee
mmcray@cecilchamber.com
410-392-3833

HFAM Testimony SB 1158.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

April 2, 2024

Senate Bill 1158: Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty
(Sacred Places Safety Act)
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 1158.

HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state. HFAM is affiliated with the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), which is the largest association in the United States representing long-term and post-acute care providers.

Senate Bill 1158 would prohibit a person from committing a crime of violence while the person is in an educational facility, a medical facility, or a place of worship.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, healthcare workers in all settings have faced increased encounters with threats and harassment as they continue to provide quality care. Hostility and aggression towards healthcare professionals has grown over issues such as visitor restrictions and related COVID-19 policies, mask requirements, vaccination, and general misinformation.

Especially considering staffing shortages we already face in healthcare, it is critical that we give our healthcare heroes the support they need so they feel safe while doing their jobs to care for our family, friends, and neighbors.

It is also important that we protect and support our community members who work in and spend time in schools and places of worship. Along with healthcare facilities, these locations are integral for all members of the community to gather, grow, heal, and learn. This legislation will be a step in helping ensure these locations remain safe.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 1158.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB1158.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Buckler

Position: FAV

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive



JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 1158**

TITLE: Crime of Violence – Education Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of
Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)

SPONSOR: Senator Muse

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: April 2, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1158 – Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act). This legislation would make the act of a crime of violence a separate felony if the crime is committed on the property of an educational facility, medical facility, or a place of worship.

As the United States continues to be plagued by an epidemic of gun violence, it is crucial that both State and local government is taking steps to both hold perpetrators of gun violence accountable and protect our communities. The influx of mass casualty events targeting schools, houses of worship, and other community centers is unconscionable. SB 1158 would grant prosecutors the ability to pursue additional penalties and longer prison sentences, bringing those responsible for these inhumane crimes to justice.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 1158 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

2024 SB1158 SUPPORT Testimony Johns Hopkins.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Weber

Position: FAV

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Leslie Ford Weber
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs

SB 1158
Favorable

DATE: April 2, 2024

RE: SB1158 Crimes of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities and Places of
Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)

Johns Hopkins supports **SB1158 Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)**. This bill recognizes the disparate impact of acts of violence on victims and witnesses when they are committed in places of learning, faith and comfort, and healing.

Workplace violence is a particular concern for our employees at all four Johns Hopkins Health System hospitals in Maryland. At our Maryland hospitals, Johns Hopkins has seen increases in reported violent assaults year after year. The most common site is the emergency department, but no area of the hospital is immune. Hundreds of employees are directly affected and the impacts extend to their colleagues and family members.

Our physicians and nurses are trained to enhance their situational awareness of potentially violent settings and to de-escalate heated encounters, yet the number and severity of injury from patients and family members is increasing. Our team members should be able to approach every patient with compassion unmitigated by fear.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB1158.

MD State Council Emergency Nurses Lisa Tenney_ SB

Uploaded by: Lisa Tenney

Position: FAV



EMERGENCY NURSES
ASSOCIATION

Maryland State Council
Safe Practice Safe Care

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Date: April 2, 2024

Re: SB 1158 **Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of
Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)**
FAVORABLE oral and written testimony

Good day, Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Committee members,

My name is Lisa Tenney, and I am testifying on behalf of The Maryland Emergency Nurses Association in favor of SB 1158 Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act).

Thank you to the sponsors for this commonsense bill that supports **ZERO TOLERANCE** for violence in educational facilities, medical facilities, and places of worship.

I would like to address violence in the medical facilities. Studies show that ER nurses and staff experience a violent event every two months. ⁽¹⁾ Of course, our patients receiving care have the same experience. Sometimes the events are directed towards the medical or nursing staff, but often, the violence is directed towards other patients. For example:

- A patient did not like his treatment plan and did not want to be discharged. He asked for a bedpan. He urinated and had a bowel movement in it. Then in anger, he threw the contents of the bedpan onto another patient, which exposed an elderly woman to his body fluids. She was severely traumatized and required follow-up monitoring.
- Another patient was high on PCP and broke out of his restraints. He picked up an IV pole and ran towards an elderly frail gentleman on a ventilator in a bed. A nurse saw the patient coming towards the old man and threw his body over him. The nurse got hit in the head with the IV pole and suffered a traumatic brain injury and depressed skull fracture.

Maryland's Patient's Bill of Rights states that patients have a RIGHT to be safe in hospitals. One of those rights reads: **Be provided care in a safe environment free from all forms of abuse**

and neglect, including verbal, mental, physical, and sexual abuse. (2) This right should be supported by the strictest consequences for those who endanger vulnerable patients who are receiving medical care.

SB 1158 would once again establish respect for this sacred place where vulnerable patients come to receive health care. Patients need and deserve protection from those who would indiscriminately harm them.

When violence in healthcare facilities occurs, it endangers everyone present. Staff, patients, and visitors get injured. The violence interferes with patient care and can cause detrimental delays. When violence happens in emergency rooms it is especially difficult for patients because these patients are already coping with the longest ER wait times of any state in the nation. (3)

Maryland's emergency nurses thank you in advance for a favorable bipartisan review.

Respectfully,

Lisa Tenney

Lisa Tenney BSN, RN, CEN, CPHRM, FAEN
Chair, Government Affairs
Maryland Emergency Nurses Association
9226 Bluebird Terrace
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Lctenney@gmail.com
240-731-2736

Resources:

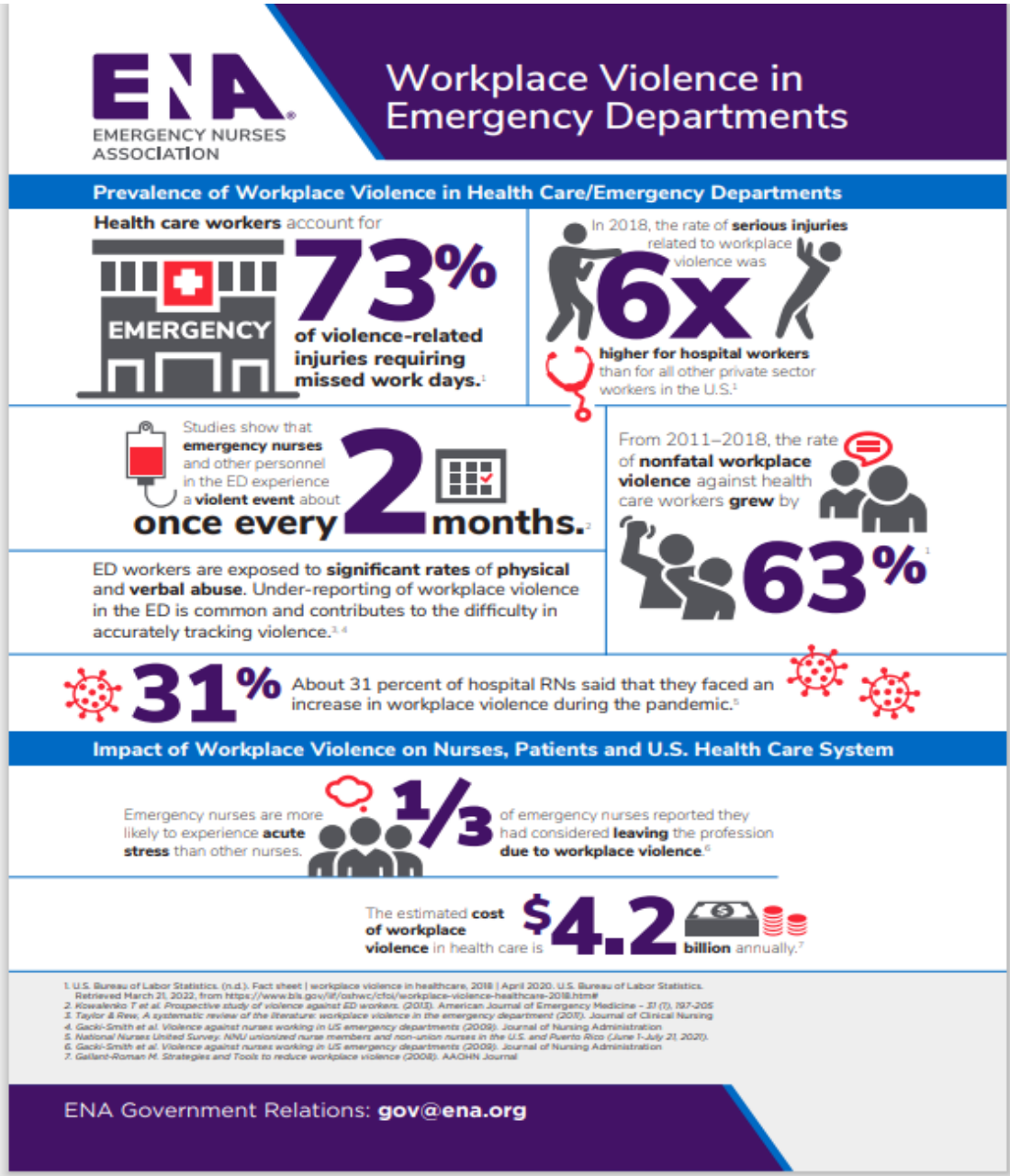
(1) Maryland Patient's Bill of Rights Law. 2019.

**Know your rights as a hospital
patient:
It can save your life!**



A new law to protect the rights of all Maryland hospital patients went into effect on October 1, 2019. The Hospital Patient's Bill of Rights, which passed the Maryland General Assembly unanimously, was signed into law by Governor Hogan on April 30, 2019.

- (2) Emergency Nurses Association. 2023. Workplace Violence in Emergency Departments Infographic. gov@ena.org



- (3) Brown, Danielle. 2023. Some of the longest emergency room wait times in Maryland can stretch almost a day. Maryland Matters. <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2023/11/22/md-officials-local-commissions-and-hospitals-work-to-untangle-issues-contributing-to-long-er-wait-times/>

SB 1158- Sacred Places Safety Act- Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Pegeen Townsend

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

Senate Bill 1158 - Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)

Position: *Support*

April 2, 2024

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association’s (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 1158.

Hospitals are places of healing and safety for patients, caregivers, and visitors. However, hospitals in Maryland and nationwide increasingly report incidents of violence, including physical assaults resulting in broken bones, scratches and bruises, as well as verbal and emotional abuse.

Maryland hospitals work to create an environment that promotes healing and prioritizes the patient experience while also preserving the health and well-being of the workforce. We are not alone in this struggle. Statistics show that health care and social service workers are five times as likely to suffer a workplace-related injury than any other industry.

Passage of SB 1158 would demonstrate the state’s commitment to protect Maryland’s health care workforce. This is critical. Violence has no place within the health care setting. Hospitals protect staff through capital investments such as redesigning patient care areas to allow for clear lines of sight, training including de-escalation, and creating multidisciplinary teams to respond to urgent patient situations in a trauma-informed manner.

Despite these efforts, our health care workforce continues to experience violence every day. About 73% of aggravated assaults and 86% of simple assaults against health care workers were from patients, family members, and visitors, according to the 2022 Healthcare Crime Survey released by the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety Foundation.¹

This violence is not limited to certain hospital units like the emergency department or behavioral health unit or to clinical staff. Across the state, Maryland’s hospitals—both in rural and urban areas—report more violence against their health care workforce. During an ongoing workforce shortage, offering a workplace free from preventable violence is essential to recruit and retain staff.

¹ [2020 Healthcare Crime Survey \(iahsf.org\)](https://iahsf.org/)

We all play a role in ensuring Maryland hospitals are safe places of hope and healing. Hospitals are committed to protecting their staff, patients, and visitors. MHA is part of a coalition advocating for a one-time \$2-million investment to implement a [workplace violence public awareness campaign](#) as recommended by the Maryland Health Care Commission's work group. The University of Vermont Medical Center created a [powerful video](#) elevating the voices of impacted health care workers. Maryland needs consistent messaging to emphasize the importance of demonstrating civility toward the health care workforce while performing their duties and providing care.

We thank the sponsor for introducing SB 1158, which sends a strong message that violence against our health care workers will not be tolerated in Maryland.

For these reasons, we ask for a *favorable* report on SB 1158.

For more information, please contact:
Pegeen Townsend, Consultant
Ptownsend@mhaonline.org

SB1158 Testimony 4.1.2024 bsg.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Graham

Position: FAV

Testimony of Scott Graham
In Support of Maryland SB 1158
Tuesday April 2, 2024

Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to advocate and protect the over 100,000 healthcare workers in the state of Maryland. My name is Scott Graham and I am the Regional Safety Officer and Director of Emergency Preparedness, Life Safety and Workforce Wellness for Holy Cross Health Maryland Region. I've been involved with trying to prevent workplace violence for over 10 years now.

Prior to coming into healthcare, I served Montgomery County for 26 years as a professional firefighter paramedic, and I continued to do so today as a volunteer in that same jurisdiction. As a firefighter paramedic, I have workplace violence protections under the law from people who want to intentionally do us harm.

Law enforcement officers bring patients. To our emergency departments each and every day who have been detained or arrested for violent acts in the street. Once in our care, Our health care workers are in an extremely vulnerable position. This bill will add yet another deterrence when a person is making the intentional decision to harm.

I come to you today with a very simple request. Just a few years ago, nurses, doctors, technicians, environmental care workers, food and nutrition workers were all lauded as heroes in the COVID pandemic.

Today I represent them as victims. Workplace violence has increased exponentially and there are numbers to prove that statement. The simple ask today of you as a committee is to unanimously support this legislation and continue to protect our healthcare heroes. I don't have to go into a lot of

numbers and statistics to say that there were over 1250 lost work days in the past 3 years in my organization alone, some with permanent physical injury – ALL with emotional injury. This number pales in comparison to some of my colleagues here today with much higher numbers. But the number 1 is the most significant statistic and today you have the opportunity to send a message and prevent that one from occurring, that one injury that could be career ending but more importantly, life saving.

We realize in health care that there are certain conditions that a patient or visitor cannot help. There are medical conditions which should be recognized in the decision of whether or not an act is intentional. There are times in which medical or physical conditions cause patients to act in a manner which could cause injury to our healthcare workers.

Today, we look at the intentional act of someone who chooses, without any other reason, to do harm to our health care workers. Patients and visitors who have the intent to harm health care professionals need to

be held accountable or those statistics and numbers will continue to grow with the increasing number of violence that we see in our healthcare facilities. This situation is out of control. When are you going to take action and stop and protect the innocent healthcare workers in Maryland as has been afforded to other professions in public safety and perhaps the judicial arena?

Only you can make this happen. In the meantime, more and more healthcare professionals, who have a deep passion for healing and caring for each and every one us here today, are leaving their desired profession because of the threats and their fear of being severely injured or even losing their lives.

Despite the ongoing efforts of education and awareness, we need this additional step to stop the needless violence that occurs each and every day in our health care settings. Just this morning. Prior to me leaving to testify before you today. A health care professional was attacked with a tire plugging tool. If you're not familiar with what that is, just picture A "T"

shaped object hidden in somebody's hand coming at you with about a 5 inch spike on the end of it.

Each and every health care organization represented here, as well as those not here today, have engaged in aggressive training and education as well as.

Implementing. Best practice and state-of-the-art.

Detection and prevention systems. Despite our efforts. These patients and visitors who intentionally choose to harm are still within our settings.

Over 80% of all nurses and health care workers will attest to being a victim of workplace violence. Good.

As I asked you earlier and I implore you now, you have the opportunity to send the message that this is not

acceptable., It is not acceptable in our society, and it

is not acceptable to assault, to injure, or to attack. Our health care workers. The same people from whom you seek care and healing.

MD SB1158, Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty Sacred Places Safety Act will in fact be another step forward to saving our healthcare heroes! I am not only testifying on behalf of our healthcare professional, but I am offering to work with you to make this long overdue bill a reality.

Thank you for your time and your action. Remember, “If Only” are the 2 worst words in our language. I hope no other healthcare worker must sit before you in the future and ask for your support to protect them.

God bless you all.

TessWileyRN.pdf

Uploaded by: Teresa Wiley

Position: FAV



Maryland State Council
Safe Practice Safe Care

To: Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Date: TBD

Re: **SB 1158 Crime of Violence – Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)**
FAVORABLE oral and written testimonies

Good day Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Committee members,

My name is Tess Wiley, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maryland Emergency Nurses Association in FAVOR of **SB 1158**. I have 20 years' experience as a RN, with 13 of those in Emergency Departments.

In January of 2022 I was working as charge nurse in a Maryland ER that is close to a jail. An inmate arrived with two deputy sheriffs. The inmate was brought in because he said that he was hiding "Fentanyl" in his rectum and was refusing a cavity search at the jail. The deputies notified me that they did not believe he had Fentanyl. They said he was a flight risk and requested a room away from exits. The inmate immediately began requesting to use the restroom, stating he had soiled himself. I was not comfortable with him using the restroom. So, I directed them to a room where he could change and clean up.

With no medical complaint, and legally not being able to force an individual to submit to a cavity search, he was discharged. After leaving his room, the inmate again stated he soiled himself and needed to go to the restroom. The deputies asked the nursing staff for a change of clothes. They took the patient into the restroom where they unshackled his hand and feet so he could change.

In the restroom, the patient pretended to "pass out." The deputies called for medical assistance. A nurse entered the restroom to help. Shortly after she arrived, the patient pulled the female deputy to the floor and struck her head against the toilet. The RN yelled for help. When I arrived, I saw the nurse trapped in the back of the restroom, with the inmate wrestling on the floor with the female deputy, repeatedly slamming her head into the floor and toilet, while the other deputy was attempting to get the inmate off of the

deputy. I screamed for staff to call security and 911 for additional help. I then realized that the inmate was trying to get the deputy's gun.

The ER doctor and I grabbed the inmate's leg and attempted to pull him off the deputies, but he continued to kick and fight. When we realized that he had released the snaps of the gun holster, our ER doctor jumped on his back. The inmate continued to fight. As I stood at the door of that bathroom looking into the terrified face of the nurse who was stuck in the bathroom, and the injured deputy on the floor, I felt helpless. I wanted to run, thinking for sure that he was going to get the gun and start shooting. I could not leave my coworkers, but then thought about my child, and if my child would still have a mother. Luckily, an off-duty county officer, who was working security in the hospital, ran into that bathroom and pried the inmate's fingers off the weapon.

If you had told me 20 years ago when I graduated from nursing school, that I would be subjected to so much violence, and would fear for my life working as a nurse, I wouldn't have believed you. But unfortunately, violent instances like this are now commonplace in healthcare. Just last week at a hospital in Boise, Idaho, an inmate shot two officers and injured a third during an escape attempt.

Thank you in advance for a favorable vote on SB 1158. Please help send a message that there is no place for violence where patients are seeking medical care. Medical facilities are sacred places, and why SB 1158 is needed.

Respectfully,

Teresa "Tess" Wiley, RN
Address 2234 Daisy Road Woodbine, MD 21797
Phone (443)235-6300
email Teresa.Wiley@holycrosshealth.org

UNFAVORABLE.SB1158.LauraBogley.MDRTL.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Bogley

Position: UNF



OPPOSITION STATEMENT AND REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT

SB1158, Sacred Places of Worship Act
Laura Bogley, JD, Executive Director
Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our Board of Directors and members across the state, we seek your amendment on **Senate Bill 1158**, which would provide protections against acts of violence for only certain medical facilities *while excluding others*. Maryland Right to Life denounces all acts of physical violence. We seek your amendment to qualify that this act would prohibit acts of PHYSICAL violence and not be weaponized against free speech or the free exercise of religion.

Citizens have the right to Equal Protection under the law and it is the duty of the state to enforce the law without political bias. Any policy of non-violence should apply equitably to all people, faiths, medical providers and to all women-whether they choose birth or abortion.

We also object strongly to the title of the act which seeks to label abortion facilities as "sacred places". The bill seeks to redefine that which is "sacred" and that which is "profane". We seek your amendment to alter the name of the act to accurately reflect its application to facilities that meet the literal definition of "profane" or "profanus" which means "outside of the temple" which would include medical facilities and educational facilities as opposed to the "sacred" which is defined as religious ritual within the temple or place of worship only. By enacting this bill with the current title, the Maryland General Assembly will be equating abortion with child sacrifice as a form of worship. This would be an outrageous affront to all Christians.

Maryland Women Deserve Equal Protection and Equal Access

Without amendment, this bill would protect abortion facilities under Section 19-114 of the Health-General Article, while excluding protections for pro-life medical pregnancy resource centers (PRCs). This would deny the equal protection of our laws for women who choose to give birth to their children.

There are two related bills that seek public grant funds for enhancing abortion clinic security measures, based on a false premise that abortion clinics in Maryland are under increasing threats of violence. Both SB975 and SB947 seek public funds for abortion clinics to improve security infrastructure, etc. **The sponsor of SB975 submitted amendment language redefining "reproductive care facility" to exclude pro-life pregnancy resource centers.** In light of the documented violence against pro-life centers, it would be a major oversight to exclude PRCs from legal protection against acts of violence under this bill.

Studies have revealed that nearly 3 in 4 women report that they felt pressured or coerced into their abortion decision. Women who choose to give life to their children deserve **equal protection under the law** so that they may safely access the services of pro-life pregnancy

resource centers despite pressures from sex traffickers, abusive partners, and even predatory practices by the abortion industry that deprives women the legal right to give informed consent.

The **Federal Freedom of Access to Clinical Entrances Act of 1994 (FACE)**, Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 248, protects the rights of women to access abortion clinics OR medical pregnancy resource centers (PRCs). **However, this bill does not conform with the FACE Act** because it would exclude protections for PRCs which operate legally under 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) "provider based status", because they would not meet the bill's limited definition of "medical facility" under Sections 10-101 and 19-114 of the Health-General Article.

Maryland has many medical pregnancy resource centers that provide medical services to women under the supervision of licensed physicians consistent with 42 CFR. These centers provide many more services than abortion clinics to women at little to no cost, but they do not commit abortions. Medical PRCs provide STI testing, pregnancy tests, sonograms and other services including providing free baby formula and diapers to those most in need. These centers are important resources for women who need local support to ensure reproductive health and healthy pregnancies.

Christians Under Attack for Practicing Faith

In 2022, [FBI Director Christopher Wray testified](#) before the Congressional House Judiciary Committee that roughly 70% of the cases of violence the FBI were investigating were cases of pro-abortion assailants against pro-life victims. While the bill also seeks to protect people within places of worship, without your amendment to specify that the bill prohibits acts of PHYSICAL violence and does not include speech as violence, it could be weaponized to prosecute people who practice their faith by praying and peacefully protesting outside of abortion facilities or to harass those who volunteer or work at Pregnancy Resource Centers.

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States imposes a limitation on government and protects the rights of citizens to exercise their religion. **Citizens carry this right with their person** - making even a sidewalk across the street from an abortion facility - a potential place for prayer worship. But Catholics like Mark Crosby, who was brutally beaten outside the Planned Parenthood in Baltimore City, have been denied the right to pray the rosary on a public sidewalk free from violence and suffered permanent injury at the hands of a pro-abortion extremist (see attached photographic evidence).

In Maryland, there have been 6 documented reports of physical assaults against pro-life citizens who were praying outside of abortion clinics in the past two years. No arrests have been made despite photographic evidence of the assailants. (Please see attached list of recent incidents of violence against pro-life citizens and providers in Maryland.)

In Maryland, there have been at least 5 documented cases of vandalism against pro-life pregnancy resource centers in the past two years. At least 100 pregnancy resource centers and pro-life groups nationwide have been attacked and vandalized since the *Dobb's* leak in early

May 2022. Pro-abortion domestic terrorists have claimed responsibility, and delivered on their promise of a “[summer of rage](#)”. These violent crimes against people practicing the tenets of their faith should be properly classified as **hate crimes** and prosecuted accordingly.

Nationally, perpetrators have attacked 32 Catholic churches since the 2022 leak of the Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, including 17 churches where the criminals demonstrated their pro-abortion motive through graffiti or by damaging pro-life memorials or symbols. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Backgrounder: Attacks on Catholic Churches in the U.S., <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/Backgrounder-Attacks-on-Catholic-Churches-in-US>, accessed on August 30, 2022.)

In December 2023, members of Congress have challenged Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke over her department’s allegedly discriminatory practices during a House Judiciary Committee hearing. Congressman Chip Roy, R-TX, a former U.S. attorney, questioned Clarke’s and the rest of the Biden administration’s interpretation of the controversial **Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act**. **He noted that this law “protects abortion clinics, pregnancy resource centers, and houses of worship alike.”** He continued, “However, the division of prosecution under the FACE Act shows a significant bias toward prosecuting FACE Act violations involving abortion clinics.” In making this point, Roy specifically referenced the case of pro-life activist [Mark Houck](#), who successfully sued the Biden Department of Justice. (<https://catholicvote.org/house-judiciary-committee-confronts-biden-appointee-over-face-act/>)

Maryland is Failing Pregnant Women

Paradoxically, the state ranks among the worst in the nation for infant mortality, preterm birth rates, and has seen a rise in severe maternal morbidity since 2019. Women in underserved communities lack access to high-risk obstetric care, face challenges in obtaining mental and behavioral health services, experience increased rates of substance abuse and overdose, and are deprived of essential perinatal education for healthy pregnancies.

The Maryland Department of Health has consistently failed to meet the needs of pregnant women and families in Maryland and appropriations should be withheld until the Department provides the annual report to the Centers for Disease Control to measure the number of abortions committed each year in Maryland, abortion reasons, funding sources and related health complications or injuries.

- The Department has routinely failed to enforce existing state health and safety regulations of abortion clinics, even after two women were near fatally injured in botched abortions.
- The Department has routinely failed to provide women with information and access to abortion alternatives, including the Maryland Safe Haven Program (see Department of Human Services), affordable adoption programs or referral to quality prenatal care and family planning services that do not promote abortion.
- The Department has demonstrated systemic bias in favor of abortion providers,

engaging in active partnerships with Planned Parenthood and other abortion organizations to develop and implement public programs, curriculum and training. In doing so the Department is failing to provide medically accurate information on pregnancy and abortion.

- The Department systemically discriminates against any reproductive health and educational providers who are unwilling to promote abortion and in doing so, suppresses pro-life speech and action in community-based programs and public education.
- The Department fails to collect, aggregate and report data about abortion and the correlation between abortion and maternal mortality, maternal injury, subsequent pre-term birth, miscarriage and infertility.
- The Department is failing to protect the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of freedom of conscience and religion for health care workers, contributing to the scarcity of medical professions and personnel in Maryland.
- The Department is failing to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and sex trafficking by waiving reporting requirements for abortionists, waiving mandatory reporter requirements for abortionists, and failing to regulate abortion practices.

In Conclusion

Maryland Right to Life urges the Maryland General Assembly to denounce all acts of physical violence, without regard for personal politics. Any act of the Maryland legislature that fails to take into account the evidence of violence against Christians and pro-life citizens and fails to provide an equitable solution against violence would deny women and pro-life citizens equal protection under the law and infringe upon the right to free exercise of religion.

We ask that you strengthen the language of this bill by providing equitable protections against **physical acts of violence for all medical facilities without qualification**, not just those under section 19-114 of the Health-General article. Finally we ask that you amend the title of the bill and reject any amendments to expressly exclude protections for pro-life medical pregnancy resource centers.

Sincerely,

Laura Bogley, JD
Executive Director
Maryland Right to Life

REPORTED ACTS OF PRO-ABORTION VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM IN MARYLAND SINCE 2022

MAY 1, 2022

BALTIMORECOUNTY

Alpha Pregnancy Center, a faith-based pregnancy resource center in Reisterstown, Maryland was vandalized including being spray painted with the words "If Abortions aren't safe, then neither are you". Pro-abortion domestic terrorism group Jane's Revenge took credit for the vandalism but no prosecutions have been initiated.

MAY 4, 2022

FREDERICKCOUNTY

Care-Net of Frederick, a faith-based pregnancy resource center was vandalized and spray painted with the words "Go to Planned Parenthood instead." The center was vandalized twice previously. The cost to the center of implementing security measures was \$14,000 all paid by private donations.

MAY 8, 2022

FREDERICK COUNTY

BirthRight of Frederick Pregnancy Resource Center was vandalized with graffiti.

JUNE 2, 2022

MONTGOMERYCOUNTY

Nicholas John Roske made an attempt against the life of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Roske reportedly was upset about the leaked Dobbs decision. He was armed with a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray and duct tape.

MAY 2023

BALTIMORE CITY

Two senior pro-life citizens were brutally beaten while praying and practicing sidewalk advocacy outside of the Planned Parenthood on N. Howard Street. Mark Crosby was beaten and kicked in the face to within an inch of his life and suffered permanent injury. Photographic evidence of the pro-abort assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.

JULY 8, 2023

MONTGOMERYCOUNTY

83 year old pro-life citizen, Olga Fairfax, was brutally attacked while praying outside an abortion facility in Silver Spring, Maryland. A young woman repeatedly punched Olga and sprayed her skin and clothes with spray paint. Photographic evidence of the pro-abort assailant was provided to police but no arrest has been made in the case.



Mark Crosby was brutally beaten while praying outside the Baltimore City Planned Parenthood.



Police were provided with video evidence of the abortion terrorist. No arrest has been made.

Police were provided photographic evidence of Olga Fairfax's attacker (with bar review shirt) but no arrest has been made.



Read aloud | Ask Copilot | 2 of 5



Known assailant in Frederick County assault. License plate blurred but reported to police.