



BERNARD C. “JACK” YOUNG  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 1568**

March 10, 2020

**TO:** Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

**FROM:** Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1568 – Labor and Employment - Health Care Facilities -  
Workplace Safety (Safe Care Act)

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 1568.

HB 1568 would require state healthcare facilities to establish workplace safety plans. It demands greater accountability from healthcare facilities to protect its staff. This bill provides an important opportunity to create meaningful tools to evaluate, address, and prevent workplace violence for Maryland healthcare workers.

Across the nation, doctors, nurses, and other health care workers often face significant risk of workplace violence. From 2002 to 2013, the rate of serious workplace violence in healthcare was more than four times greater than that of any other private industry.<sup>1</sup> In a poll by the American College of Emergency Physicians, 60% of emergency physician respondents reported a physical assault within the prior year.<sup>2</sup> In fact, the evidence suggests that incidents of workplace violence may be underreported.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Preventing Workplace Violence in Health. N.d. United States Department of Labor. Accessed on 3 March 2020. Available from: [https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hospitals/workplace\\_violence.html](https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hospitals/workplace_violence.html)

<sup>2</sup> Ideastream, MHT. 20 May 2019. Escalating Workplace Violence Rocks Hospitals. Kaiser Health News. Accessed 9 3 March 2020. Available from: <https://khn.org/news/escalating-workplace-violence-rocks-hospitals/>

<sup>3</sup> “In the Emergency Room, only 30% of nurses and 26% of physicians report incidents of workplace violence respectively.” Behnam M, Tillotson RD, Davis SM, Hobbs GR. Violence in the emergency department: a national survey of emergency medicine residents and attending physicians. J Emerg Med 2011;40:565-579

*Annapolis – phone: 410.269.0207 • fax: 410.269.6785  
Baltimore – phone: 410.396.3497 • fax: 410.396.5136  
<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*

Workplace violence can cause both devastating physical and emotional damage to our nation's caregivers.<sup>4</sup>

Altogether, the BCA firmly believes the provisions of HB 1568 are a great first step in protecting the workers who dedicate their lives to caring for those in need. We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1568.

---

<sup>4</sup> Philips JP. 28 April 2016. Workplace Violence against Health Care Workers in the United States. New England Journal of Medicine. Vol 374:1661-1669