



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 131 ♦ Stevenson, Maryland 21153 ♦ mota.memberlodge.org

Support

Senate Bill 846 – Peace Orders – Workplace Violence

Judiciary Proceedings Committee

March 11, 2020

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 846 – Peace Orders – Workplace Violence*. The bill would allow employers to file peace orders to protect employees from workplace violence.

MOTA supports this bill because workplace violence is too frequent in health care facilities. Health care workers are at an increased risk for violence, with incidents of serious violence being four times more common in health care as other industries.¹ This bill would give health care facilities a tool to help keep their facilities safe by allowing the employer to file a peace order to protect an employee. Employees may be too frightened to have their personal address on legal filings, and this bill would alleviate this fear. It would also remove the burden from the employee from navigating a complex legal system. This is critical, especially when an employee is recovering from the trauma of workplace violence.

MOTA wants to ensure that health care facilities are safe. It is important for the lives of health care providers and patients. MOTA recognizes that this is a new initiative, and we pledge to work with the sponsor and Committee on any technical issues that need to be addressed.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ OSHA 3826. Workplace Violence in Healthcare. Understanding the Challenge. (2015). <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3826.pdf>