



To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: House Bill 1308 - Crime of Violence – Medical Facilities and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)

Date: March 11, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MdAPA) supports *House Bill 1308 - Crime of Violence – Medical Facilities and Places of Worship – Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)*. According to the World Health Organization, up to 38% of healthcare workers experience physical violence in the workplace.ⁱ Maryland has already enacted legislation to establish a felony penalty for violence against first responders who provide medical care. Healthcare professionals who are also on the frontline of providing healthcare in hospitals and other settings should have equal protection.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ Lim MC, Jeffree MS, Saupin SS, Giloi N, Lukman KA. Workplace violence in healthcare settings: The risk factors, implications and collaborative preventive measures. *Ann Med Surg (Lond)*. 2022 May 13;78:103727. doi: 10.1016/j.amsu.2022.103727. PMID: 35734684; PMCID: PMC9206999.