

Government Affairs Update

Join our Government Affairs and QSIP team the THIRD THURSDAY of every month. Email cball5@hfhs.org for more information or to join the committee.

Federal Legislative Updates:

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 2531 / S. 1232)

Status: Active in the 119th Congress; introduced in both chambers (this is typical at the federal level).

This bill would require OSHA to implement enforceable workplace-violence-prevention standards for healthcare and social-service settings. If passed, employers would be mandated to conduct risk assessments, develop formal violence-prevention plans, provide staff training, and implement systems for reporting and mitigation.

This is one of the most comprehensive federal efforts to protect frontline healthcare workers, especially those in emergency and behavioral care environments.

Save Healthcare Workers Act (S. 1600 / H.R. 3178)

Status: Introduced; awaiting committee action.

This legislation would make assaulting a healthcare worker a federal crime, reinforcing national recognition of violence against nurses and medical staff as an urgent public safety issue.

Why This Matters:

Both federal proposals would strengthen institutional accountability and provide consistent protections across all states. These efforts directly support the safety and well-being of nurses and other healthcare professionals.

Michigan State Legislative Updates:

Michigan Workplace Violence Prevention Package (HB 4532–4535)

Status: Introduced; pending committee review.

This bipartisan package, led by Rep. Natalie Price, addresses the rising rate of violence against healthcare workers. Key components include enhanced penalties for assaults, improved reporting processes, and clearer safety standards within healthcare environments.

Michigan healthcare workers are statistically **five times more likely** to experience workplace violence compared to other industries—making this legislation especially critical for emergency departments. **This is also likely very underreported.**

Recommended Committee Actions-to be discussed at the next meetings

- Prepare and submit **formal support letters** for both federal workplace-violence bills.
- Draft a **Michigan-specific position statement** supporting HB 4532–4535.
- Reach out to Rep. Natalie Price's office to offer clinical insight, ER-specific data, or written testimony.
- Distribute an **advocacy alert** to membership encouraging outreach to legislators.
- Continue **monthly bill tracking** and develop sharable messaging for social media and organizational communications.
- Explore **coalition partnerships** with ENA, ANA, MHA, MCEP, and local health systems for unified advocacy.

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