

Assaults against healthcare workers rising at alarming rates

Please protect healthcare workers by voting YES on HB 1121: Healthcare worker assault bill

HB 1121: Healthcare Worker Assault Bill equalizes the penalties for assaulting a healthcare worker in a healthcare setting.

- Currently, it is a class C felony to knowingly assault a healthcare worker, but ONLY in a hospital emergency room.
- HB 1121 would include healthcare workers throughout a healthcare facility.

What's happening to healthcare workers?

- Healthcare workers are assaulted every day and the number of incidents is growing.
- They are punched, slapped, scratched, pinched and grabbed inappropriately. This happens in all patient care settings, not just the emergency room.
- National studies indicate that 44% of nurses report experiencing physical violence and 68% report experiencing verbal abuse during the pandemic. (Source: American Hospital Association)

Workforce: The Great Resignation

- The mass exodus of workers in recent years has hit few industries harder than healthcare. In 2021, nearly 1.7 million workers quit their healthcare jobs—equivalent to almost 3% of the healthcare workforce each month¹. Workforce violence and burnout have exasperated workforce shortages.
- A N.D. Hospital Association survey on workforce found North Dakota hospitals have 1,300 openings.

Holding violent individuals accountable

- The healthcare industry is a hands-on environment and there are always going to be patients who become violent through no fault of their own – mental health issues, dementia or reacting to a medication. That is not what this bill is about.
- HB 1211 creates a pathway to holding accountable the small minority of individuals or family members who knowingly choose to assault a healthcare provider.

Please help protect healthcare providers by voting **YES on HB 1121.**

Thank you!



¹ https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.t04.htm#jolts_table4.f.2