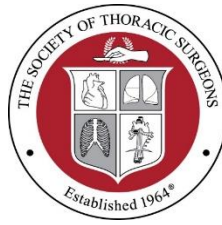


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November 14, 2023

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Madeleine Dean  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: H.R. 2584/S. 2768, the Secure and Violence-Free Environments Act**

Dear Representatives Bucshon and Dean, and Senators Manchin and Rubio,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 2584/S. 2768, the Secure and Violence-Free Environments (SAVE) Act. This vital legislation addresses a pressing issue that deeply concerns our organization – the alarming prevalence of violence within hospital settings. As the leading professional society representing thoracic surgeons in the United States, we recognize the urgency of taking measures to ensure the safety and well-being of healthcare professionals, patients, and visitors.

Founded in 1964, STS is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,700 surgeons, researchers, and allied healthcare professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

The statistics regarding violence in hospitals are deeply concerning and demand immediate attention. Research shows that incidents of violence in healthcare settings are on the rise, with an estimated 75% of all workplace assaults occurring in healthcare and social service settings.<sup>1</sup> This issue has cost at least one STS member their life, while impacting many more.<sup>2</sup> The safety of healthcare workers, including thoracic surgeons, is paramount to delivering quality patient care, and this legislation is a significant step towards achieving this goal.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/trends-policies-and-protocols-related-to-healthcare-workplace-violence.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2015/06/30/brigham-and-womens-hospital-shooting/>

The SAVE Act addresses this issue comprehensively by providing a framework to prevent and respond to violence within healthcare facilities. By establishing workplace violence prevention plans, creating reporting systems, and developing strategies to mitigate risks, the SAVE Act will help protect those who are most vulnerable within our hospitals. Additionally, the provision for grants and funding will aid healthcare organizations in implementing these essential safety measures.

STS believes that healthcare professionals should be able to focus on providing the best care to their patients without the constant fear of violence. We commend your recognition of this issue and your dedication to addressing it through the creation of the SAVE Act. Please contact Molly Peltzman, Associate Director of Health Policy, at [mpeltzman@sts.org](mailto:mpeltzman@sts.org), or Derek Brandt, Vice President of Government Affairs, at [dbrandt@sts.org](mailto:dbrandt@sts.org), should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. MacGillivray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas E. MacGillivray, MD  
President