



Delaware Healthcare Update

May 3, 2022

Stand Against Hospital Violence

Violence against health care workers is unacceptable and must be stopped. Health care workers have dedicated their lives to caring for others, yet they are more likely than any other workforce to encounter serious assault in their workplace.

Today, the House will vote on House Bill 324 [to make equitable](#) the penalties for intentionally assaulting health care workers.

We urge the Delaware General Assembly to take a stand against violence to health care workers by voting YES on HB 324.

Wayne A. Smith
President & CEO
Delaware Healthcare Association



Support House Bill 324



Delaware Hospitals Support
HB 324 to Stop Violence Against Health Care Workers

 	<p>Delaware hospitals strongly support legislation to make equitable the penalties for intentional violent attacks against health care workers.</p> <p>4X Health care workers are four times more likely to experience workplace violence than other private industries.</p> <p>75% of the workplace assaults reported annually happen in the health care or social services settings.</p>
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Under current Delaware law, it is rightly considered a felony offense if injury is inflicted on doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and paramedics. Current law does not provide the same protection for other health care workers that work in close contact with patients and their families and who are assaulted, such as physician assistants, respiratory therapists, patient safety attendants, nursing assistants, medical assistants, EKG technicians and others.

HB 324 would make equitable the penalties for violence against health care workers by ensuring that causing intentional injury against any person providing health care treatment or employed by a health care provider is considered assault in the second degree -- a felony offense.

This bill passed the House unanimously in 2020 (HB 144 in the 150th General Assembly), just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit our state

We hope you will join Delaware's hospitals, nurses and the entire health care workforce in taking a stand against violence and supporting HB 324.

- [Click here to read](#) DHA's letter of support for HB 324.
- [Click here to read](#) a one-pager on the bill.

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