

Please protect hospital workers by voting **YES on HB 1341: Hospital worker assault bill**

HB 1341: Hospital Worker Assault Bill equalizes the penalties for assaulting a hospital 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 1341 would include hospital workers.

The difference between hospital workers and other workers: emergency and hospital workers may not deny care

- Federal requirements prohibit emergency room and hospital workers from denying care to patients regardless of violent behavior from the patient or their family members.

Assault rate increasing

- U.S. healthcare workers experience workplace violence at a rate almost four times that of other industries.¹ They are punched, slapped, scratched, choked, kicked and grabbed inappropriately.

Applies only to individuals who KNOWINGLY assault a healthcare worker

- Healthcare is a hands-on industry 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.
- The higher penalty is intended to hold accountable the growing group of individuals or family members who **knowingly** choose to assault a healthcare provider.

Data supports that higher penalty deters assaults

- In 2017 when the N.D. legislature increased the penalty for throwing/spitting bodily fluids on a healthcare worker, the rate of such incidents decreased.

Healthcare workforce shortages

- Workforce violence and burnout have exacerbated workforce shortages.
- As of 2023, 41 percent of nurses indicate they intend to leave their jobs within two years.²

What hospitals are doing to protect employees

- Safety and self-defense training for all employees
- Crisis intervention and de-escalation training
- Workplace violence education campaigns that include posters and brochures
- Increased security staff
- Metal/weapons detectors



¹ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00642>

² Rotenstein, L.S., Brown, R., Sinsky, C., & Linzer, M. (2023). Work overload with burnout. [Journal of general internal medicine, 38\(8\), 1920–1927.](#)