

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons:
The experts in face, mouth and
jaw surgery®



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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May 5, 2023

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Madeline Dean
U.S. House of Representatives
150 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bucshon and Dean:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), which represents more 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, thank you for introducing HR 2584, the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act.

If passed, this important legislation will impact all OMSs at some point during their career. Oral and maxillofacial surgery is the surgical specialty of dentistry. As such, all OMSs must complete a minimum of four years of hospital-based oral and maxillofacial surgery residency training. Many OMSs also continue to provide care in a hospital-based setting throughout their careers whether it is serving as a residency program faculty member; performing complex services, such as orthognathic or craniofacial surgery, that may need to be carried out in a hospital; or providing emergency department coverage to treat face and mouth injuries.

As pointed out in your legislation, research shows that the incidence rate for workplace violence against healthcare workers has been increasing over the last decade. Yet there is no federal law that protects hospital employees from assault and intimidation, which may prevent them from providing optimum patient care as well as increase their levels of stress and burnout. The SAVE Act, which is modeled after current protections for aircraft and airport workers like flight crews and attendants, would create federal legal penalties for individuals who knowingly and intentionally assault or intimidate hospital employees. The legislation also would provide protections for individuals who may be mentally incapacitated due to illness or substance use. The enhanced penalties provided under the SAVE Act will ensure offenders are punished appropriately for their crimes and serve as a deterrent to those considering future violence and intimidation.

Thank you for your leadership on the SAVE Act. AAOMS welcomes the opportunity to work with you to advance this important legislation. Please contact Jeanne Tuerk, AAOMS Director of Government Affairs, at 800- 822-6637, ext. 4321, or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Schwartz, DMD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "P" and "S".

Paul J. Schwartz, DMD
AAOMS President