



March 10, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N St., Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 977 (Rodriguez) — Support**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

Health care workers in hospitals across the state are increasingly subject to violent threats and attacks. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that [health care workers are five times more likely to experience workplace violence than employees in other sectors](#). California's already exhausted health care workforce must be better protected while they care for others and save lives.

**For these reasons, the California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports Assembly Bill 977, which would extend the penalties for violence committed against first responders to include all health care workers who provide services within emergency departments.** An extension of penalties for violence committed against health care workers will send a broad and effective message that violence will not be tolerated.

Additionally, this penalty extension should apply to workers throughout the *entire* hospital building — health care workers in the ED are not the only ones who are experiencing increased rates of violence. Health care workers should be protected from violence regardless of where they work in a hospital.

Health care employees deserve a safe workplace and CHA respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on AB 977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez".

Vanessa Gonzalez,  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez  
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Sandy Uribe, Consultant, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus