



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

April 22, 2019

**Executive Summary - Comments of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)
The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act
(HR 1309 & S 851)**

In late October 2018, ASSP hosted the [Women's Workplace Safety Summit](#), and workplace violence involving women was one of three focus topics of the event. Workplace violence has a disproportionate impact on women and is the leading cause of fatalities for workers who are women.

ASSP commends the applicable committees for addressing this issue through legislation that directs the Secretary of Labor to issue an OSH standard that requires covered employers within the healthcare and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan. If enacted, the legislation would ensure that enforceable and effective workplace violence prevention programs would be required within two years of enactment.

OSHA's November 2018 regulatory agenda included "Prevention of Workplace Violence in Health Care and Social Assistance" as a future item with a small business panel (pursuant to the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act) slated for March 2019. Barring any movement from the agency in this regard, it is appropriate for Congress — in its oversight role — to signal to OSHA that this is a priority rulemaking area, and for your committees to take the lead on helping to fill the gaps in protections for the many vulnerable workers in this high-risk area.

ASSP condemns all forms of violence in the workplace and is particularly concerned with the rise of injuries associated with violence in the healthcare and social service industry sectors, targeted by the pending federal legislation. ASSP supports congressional efforts to eliminate workplace violence and encourages OSHA to continue with its rulemaking to promulgate an enforceable and effective standard, accompanied by comprehensive education and outreach.

We look forward to assisting the efforts of Congress in advancing this important legislation, and providing such additional information as may be warranted, including testifying at any future hearings.