

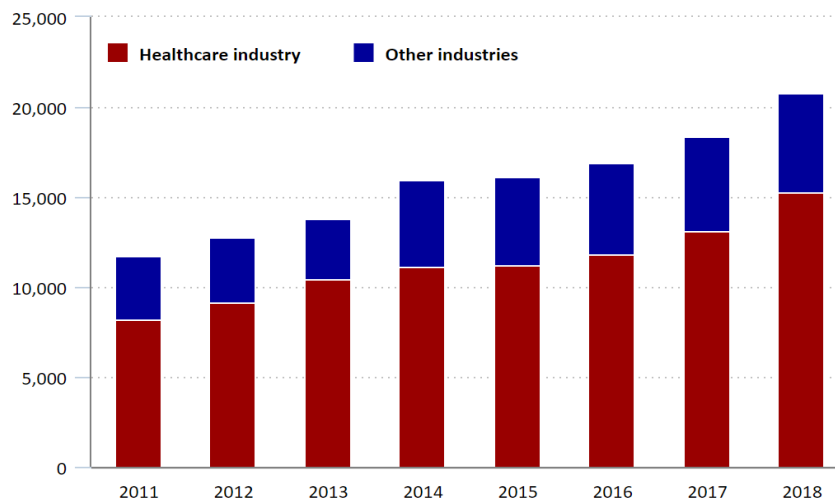
# *The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*

**Introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin**

The *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*, directs the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue a standard requiring health care and social service employers to write and implement a workplace violence prevention plan to prevent and protect employees from violent incidents.

Health care and social service workers were victims of [76 percent](#) of all nonfatal injuries from workplace violence in 2020. While workplace violence trends were increasing before the pandemic (below), recent research suggests the problem has worsened considerably, contributing to staffing [shortages](#). Half of nurses [surveyed](#) in 2022 reported an increase in workplace violence, more than double the previous year.

**Chart 2. Number of nonfatal workplace violence injuries and illnesses with days away from work, 2011-18**



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Front line employees in these settings interact with a range of patients, clients, and their families, often with little training or direction for how to prevent or handle interactions that become violent. The *Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Services Act* would ensure that health care and social service workplaces adopt proven prevention techniques and are prepared to respond in the tragic event of a violent incident. In the absence of action from OSHA, this legislation is necessary to ensure that nurses, doctors, medical assistants, emergency personnel, and social service workers are not subjected to preventable acts of violence on the job.

The legislation is supported by: the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN), AFGE, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, AFT, American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA), American Nurses Association, American Public Health Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Emergency Nurses Association, IAM, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), National Association of Social Workers, National Nurses United, PhilaPOSH, USW, Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN), and the American Psychiatric Association.