

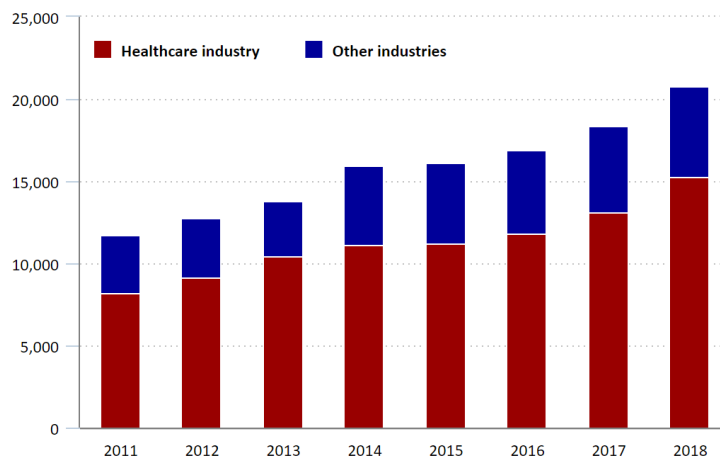
# *The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act*

**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 workers were victims of [73 percent](#) of all nonfatal injuries from workplace violence in 2018. While it is too early to have comprehensive data from the pandemic, [anecdotal evidence suggests](#) that workplace violence is nearing crisis levels for health care and social service workers and contributing to staffing [shortages](#).

**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 in 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: AFL-CIO, AFSCME, AFT, American Industrial Hygiene Association, Alliance for Retired Americans, American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, American College of Emergency Physician, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Counseling Association, American Nurses Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Public Health Association, American Society of Radiologic Technologists, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Emergency Nurses Association, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Association of Forensic Nurses, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Midstate Council for Occupational Safety and Health, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), National Association of Social Workers, National Nurses United, Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health, Public Citizen, UAW, United Steelworkers, Worksafe, SEIU, American Society of Safety Professionals, AFGE, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.