



Illinois College of Emergency Physicians

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE  ICEP.org

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[CHICAGO, IL] — A terrible episode of workplace violence took place yesterday in the Provident Hospital emergency department on the Southside of Chicago when a patient attacked two healthcare workers with a knife. One of these workers was an emergency physician who was stabbed in the chest and was transported to the University of Chicago trauma center a few miles away.

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP) wishes to extend its thoughts and prayers for the speedy recovery of these two workers.

This incident is yet another example of the continued rise in violence against healthcare workers in the emergency department. Healthcare providers put themselves in harm’s way every day to serve and protect the public, and deserve better facilities, equipment, and training to mitigate such threats.

ICEP has collaborated with Illinois State Senator Laura Fine of the IL 104th district and Illinois Representative Natalie Manley of the IL 104th district to introduce Senate bill 2294 and House Bill 3435 respectively. Both bills will strengthen existing laws to protect emergency physicians, nurses, and emergency department workers from violence or threats of violence while at work. Specifically, the bills will require hospitals to meet threshold standards for preparing and preventing potential acts of violence including provisions for security and facility upgrades. More importantly, they will require hospitals to document and report violent incidents annually to the Illinois Department of Health detailing occurrences, injuries, and security plan updates. Because hospitals are not currently required to report such incidents, it is challenging to have discussions with legislators or the public because the scope of the problem has gone unreported for so long.

We humbly ask the public to remember the dedication of these two healthcare workers to their profession and to keep them in their thoughts. We also ask the public to write or call their state legislators to support this important legislation.



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