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**Memorandum in Support  
Hospital Violence Prevention Program  
S4909-B (Sepulveda) /A474-C (Cruz)**

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians is strongly in support of S4909-B (Sepulveda) /A474-C (Cruz) which would require hospitals to establish a violence prevention protection program including the establishment of security personnel in hospital emergency departments to protect from violence and verbal and physical abuse of doctors, nurses and staff who provide critical medical care in such emergency departments. The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (NYACEP) joins the New York State Council of Emergency Nurses Association (NYSCENA) and the American Nurses Association of New York (ANA-NY) in support of this legislation.

According to surveys by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), almost half of EM physicians report being physically assaulted at work, while about 70 percent of emergency nurses report being hit and kicked while on the job. In addition, the vast majority (80%) of emergency physicians say violence in the Emergency Department harms patient care.

As reported by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) News, every nurse and physician who was interviewed for a story on emergency department violence had experienced or witnessed violent acts, including biting, scratching, spitting, kicking, and punching. There were reports of patients throwing objects, yanking out IVs and threatening to throw blood at health care providers.

S4909-B (Sepulveda) /A474-C (Cruz) establishes a process and requirements to help ensure a safer work environment for patients and health care personnel in hospitals, including hospital Emergency Departments, in New York State. Given that the Emergency Department is one of the most vulnerable high- risk areas in the hospital, **NYACEP respectfully asks the Legislature to support S4909-B (Sepulveda) /A474-C (Cruz) and help create a safer work environment for patients and health care personnel in Emergency Departments.**