



140 Broad Street, First Floor  
Schuylerville, NY 12871  
phone: (585) 872-2417  
fax: (585) 872-2419  
email: [nyacep@nyacep.org](mailto:nyacep@nyacep.org)  
[nyacep.org](http://nyacep.org)

**Memorandum In Support  
Hospital Violence Prevention Program  
A203 (Cruz)/S5294 (Sepúlveda)**

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (New York ACEP) is strongly in support of A203(Cruz) /S5294 (Sepúlveda) 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. New York ACEP 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% 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.

A203 (Cruz)/S5294 (Sepúlveda) 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, **the Emergency Physicians of New York ACEP respectfully asks the Legislature to support A203(Cruz) /S5294 (Sepúlveda) and help create a safer work environment for patients and health care personnel in Emergency Departments.**