



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Kansas Hospitals Applaud New Health Care Worker Protections**

#### *Legislation Passed and Now Signed Into Law*

(May 23, 2023) – [New laws](#) will provide additional protections for Kansas health care workers who are facing continued threats in the course of their work. Nearly half of [Kansas hospital staff members surveyed](#) in recent years said patients, visitors or others commit acts of workplace violence at least one to three times a year. Some reported more frequent occurrences.

“At a time when health care is facing a staffing crisis, we are pleased legislation that provides protections for health care workers has been signed into law,” said Chad Austin, president and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association. “There are now criminal penalties for assault and battery of a health care worker.”

Similar legislation has been passed in surrounding states including Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma. In addition, other states including Georgia and Florida, have addressed these matters during their most recent legislative sessions.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 238 member facilities, of which 123 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is: “Optimal Health for Kansans.”

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