April 1, 2022

The Honorable Troy Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Representative Carter,

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I would like to convey our strong support for your recently introduced bipartisan resolution, H.Res. 909, which expresses support for health care personnel and condemns workplace violence faced by physicians and other health care workers. Thank you for your leadership in helping to elevate the discussion around this growing crisis that is impacting physicians and frontline health care workers across the nation.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 161,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Internal medicine specialists treat many of the patients at greatest risk from COVID-19, including the elderly and patients with pre-existing conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

ACP’s members and health care workers across the country have faced the significant and growing problem of workplace violence for years, which has only been made worse by the ongoing pandemic. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has found that health care and social service workers experience the highest levels of violence of any industry, and health care workers specifically make up 73 percent of all nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence. In addition, rising violence against physicians and other health care workers is a global problem, which the World Medical Association labeled “an international emergency” that “undermines the very foundations of health systems and ultimately impacts critically on patients’ health.”

No one should be subject to harassment, physical, or verbal violence at their place of work, and physicians and other health care professionals should not be subject to threats for merely doing their jobs. Physicians have the right to deliver care under conditions that do not pose a threat to their health or well-being. The College has strongly condemned such acts of violence in the workplace.

We look forward to working with you to help advance this resolution and appreciate your commitment to protecting physicians and frontline health care workers as we continue to care for patients both during and after the pandemic. If the College can serve as a resource on this
issue or any other issue impacting health care delivery, please do not hesitate to contact Jonni McCrann at (202) 261-4541 or at jmccrann@acponline.org.

Sincerely,

George M. Abraham, MD, MPH, MACP, FIDSA
President