

SB 132 – Protection for Workers in Oregon Hospitals

SB 132 amends ORS 163.165 to add people working in hospitals to the list of professions who, if they are ***intentionally, knowingly or recklessly assaulted*** while performing their jobs, the crime is a class C felony.

The workers currently covered by ORS 163.165 include professions who, like hospital staff, are ***required to serve all members of the public***: emergency medical services (ambulance) personnel, youth correction facility staff, public transit vehicle operators, taxi drivers.

Intentional ***violent acts against hospital staff occur despite extensive training*** of hospital employees about how to prevent violence as well as how to recognize and de-escalate potentially violent situations.

Most other states have already taken action to enhance criminal penalties for assaults against hospital employees; currently 35 states, including Washington, have done so.

SB 132 ***does not remove any protections for mentally ill or impaired patients*** who may be violent, but are not able to form criminal intent.

SB 132 is supported by:

Legacy Health, Oregon Health and Science University, PeaceHealth, Salem Health, St. Charles Health System, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Oregon Nurses Association, AFSCME, Oregon Emergency Nurses Association, Oregon College of Emergency Physicians, Oregon Medical Association, SEIU

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