



Senator Monnes Anderson and Members of the Healthcare Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding Senate Bill 132. My name is Alan Helyer, testifying on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). I am a retired Air Force Nurse, with experience inside the hospital as a staff nurse, & in Public Health where my focus was occupational health & hospital employee health. I have experience with workplace violence as well as family violence. I am a member of ONA's Cabinet on Health Policy.

I want to thank you for your efforts to address the challenges nurses and other health care providers face when patients or visitors become violent. ONA supports SB 132. As a nurse, I hope this legislation will be the *first step* towards helping to reduce violence against health care workers.

Many nurses who work in a hospital setting receive training in how to recognize, prevent, and respond to violence. But this is not enough to protect them.

ONA joins the Joint Commission for Hospital Accreditation in supporting frequent assessments of the risk of assaults, and implementation of evidence-based strategies to reduce the risk of violence. We have long supported an effort to require reporting of assaults against health care workers, both unintentional and intentional, and would like to have **ongoing reporting** of data relating to these violent acts.

SB 132 takes an important step towards protecting HCWs on the job from violence, but additional data is needed to identify the true scope and root causes of the problem. Data collection can assist in developing and implementing effective safety plans and allow us to begin to explore less punitive ways to reduce violence against HCWs, while also protecting some of the most vulnerable patients in the system.

We live in a violent society. From the news, we hear about attacks on postal workers, school children, college students, and clinics. It is not uncommon for a caregiver to be assaulted by patients suffering from dementia, delirium, or delusions. These Assaults cause substantial harm to caregivers. Unfortunately, SB 132 will not deter these types of assaults from occurring.

NTL, I urge your support of SB 132 and look forward to continuing this conversation with you in sessions to come. Thank you.