



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Senator Kruse, Senate Committee on Health Care
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: February 16, 2015

Re: Support for SB 132

The OMA supports SB 132, which makes the assault of a health care provider in a hospital setting a third-degree felony. Aligning the assault of a health care worker under the same law that applies to other professionals shows the legislature's commitment to keeping all workers safe and protected under the same laws. The bill also gives health care employers another tool to support their employees, in addition to the required workplace violence prevention programs they already sponsor.

Many of OMA's members are employed by or have medical privileges at hospitals and should feel protected by the place they work. It is important for health care workers to recognize that workplace violence is not "part of the job" and instead, feel supported in reporting it as crime committed against the physician, nurse or other health care worker.

The OMA encourages the committee to support SB 132 as a measure that will further protect health care workers and ensure that these workers are able to continually provide the highest quality patient care.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8,100 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.