

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to House Bill 2717, which “increases penalties for assault committed against employee of mass transit district or transportation district if employee is assaulted while acting within scope of employment.” I’m disappointed that the entire project was hijacked by the ATU 757 & Trimet, and credit has not been given where credit is due, but regardless of this nonsense, this is a step in the right direction. The current language allows for a person to assault a transit worker and get away with it because the bus or vehicle wasn’t “in motion.”

Let’s close this loophole, once and for all!

Transit workers shouldn’t have to go to work afraid of being punched in the face, and then acquiring timeloss because there was no criminal charge brought against the assailant, therefore not allowing the operator to be out on Workman’s Compensation.

Will there be a cost associated with this bill? Maybe. Will there be a savings associated with this bill? Absolutely. If potential attackers knew the consequences for causing any physical harm to a transit worker had grown from a misdemeanor to a felony, they would think twice about their actions, and would consider other means of communication. This would decrease the amount of cases in the court system!

I support this bill for my coworkers, my peers, my operators, the maintenance workers, and any and everybody who is involved in transportation in the state of Oregon!



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