



Chair Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony. I am the President of the Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists (OSA). The OSA is comprised of over 600 physicians who work to uphold the highest standards of anesthesia care and patient advocacy by promoting patient safety, research, education, and innovation in anesthesia.

I am writing to express the OSA's support of HB 2620. Nurses, physicians and other hospital workers treat all patients who visit an emergency room for care. Unfortunately, the rare patient or their family member can become violent and intentionally injure their provider. The trauma system is a significant source of risk for many anesthesiologists, and physicians have reported being threatened and attacked by patients and visitors in emergency room trauma bays. Sadly, more than 75% of emergency physicians experienced at least one violent workplace incident in a year.

In order to provide the best level of care, physicians, nurses and other members of the care team must practice in a safe environment. Safe care is compromised when assaults against hospital workers cause emotional and physical harm. Thirty-nine other states, including Washington, have protections similar to HB 2620 in place for their hospital workers.

Additionally, it is important to note that this bill excludes patients with severe mental illness who cannot form criminal intent.

Please take action to protect hospital workers, and vote yes on HB 2620.

Regards,

Brian Mitchell
President
Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists