



Testimony on HB 2620

Jenny Taylor
March 7, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Williamson and Olson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Taylor & I am a registered nurse with 22 years of medical surgical nursing experience & 1 year of inpatient psychiatric nursing experience. I am a current ONA member & serve as ONA CA-1 President. I am in support of HB 2620 and the forthcoming amendment to strengthen the bill. Our Portland hospital facility is in dire need of evidence based comprehensive workplace violence law that includes data collection and adequate security stationed in ERs & psychiatric units.

I was a patient in the ER several years ago. I came in via ambulance with a serious, but temporary injury. A psychiatric patient near my room was violent, yelling & hitting the wall. A code gray was called & I remember feeling myself in a state of panic due to my inability to move & unbearable pain. This experience is forever imbedded in my life experience. We need to improve the care of all patients by improving the safety of all patients & healthcare workers.

I have completed 1yr of psychiatric nursing. In this past year I have received PMAB (preventing managing aggressive behavior) training, mock code gray training along with my psychiatric nurse orientation. I recently witnessed my AHN (Assistant Head Nurse) assaulted & injured by a psychiatric patient in front of me in our unit during a code gray event. Several of my psychiatric colleagues have been assaulted & injured on the job this past year. Our unit has felt compassion fatigue & staffing strain when we have injured staff on LOAs (leave of absences). Many staff have picked up extra shifts or even worked double shifts to fill in the staffing deficits.

I would hope to see this committee & our legislature strongly consider strengthening the law with meaningful, evidence based practices like data collection and required security levels.

Thank you,

Jennifer Taylor RN