

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Oregon House  
Committee on Judiciary,

You have probably heard how violence in healthcare has become a larger public issue. Some have reported the emergency department as *the most dangerous place* to work in healthcare. Assaults on healthcare personnel can be frightening, debilitating, and career-ending. They interrupt the entire healthcare process, affect the safety of the patients and staff, and come with a great price of apprehension, fear, guilt, and pain.



House Bill 2620 requests that assaults against hospital employees be considered a crime of assault in the third degree if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes physical injury.

We have been here before. In 2015, Oregon Senate Bill 132 asked the same of the Oregon Legislature however the bill died in committee. Since that time, Colorado, Utah, Georgia and Delaware have enhanced penalties for persons who would assault nurses in emergency departments. In total, 39 states have similar assault legislation for healthcare.

We need your help.

The Oregon Emergency Nurses Association asks that you allow this bill to move forward as written.

Thank you,

The Oregon ENA Board of Directors

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