



Chair Greenlick and members of the House Healthcare committee, Oregon AFSCME supports SB 367A and hope that you will also. This bill comes from a request of several of our corrections member trying come up with a solution to a serious problem faced by a number of our members who serve in Correctional institutions around the state. Oregon AFSCME represents over 3,000 workers in most of the State prisons. They work under extreme stress and for long hours among inmates they cannot trust. Regularly they are attacked with bodily fluid or bitten by inmates. These incidents lead to more than just physical attacks. Our members are subjected to mental and emotional stress because these attacks could spread communicable diseases. SB 367A allows our members' healthcare provider to know if they have been subjected to these communicable diseases. We need SB 367 so that our officers can find out right away if they need to be worried about contracting Hepatitis or other serious illness.

In most normal everyday situations it is very hard to transmit these diseases from normal exposure but our work inside the institutions is not normal. Our officers have no choice but to engage with inmates in close quarters and they cannot avoid the possibility of exposure. Right now when an attack happens members are forced to take expensive prophylactic drugs to protect themselves. These drugs also tend to make our members ill for weeks. In many cases the status of these inmates is already known to the institution and we would simply like to make sure our members' healthcare providers know if they need to be concerned. The bill allows the inmate's medical records to be shared with the physician treating the officer. SB 367A only triggers when circumstance warrants and only to protect our members. This measure is about making sure our members, who already have incredible stressful jobs, have peace of mind and can continue their job.

Respectfully Submitted by

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