



Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare,

The Oregon Emergency Nurses Association represents over 700 emergency nurses committed to caring for anyone who enters our Oregon emergency departments.

Some have reported the emergency department as *the most dangerous place* to work in healthcare. Recent studies have shown **88-100%** of emergency nurses have experienced verbal aggression and **43-96%** have experienced physical violence.¹⁻⁴

Senate Bill 823 requests common sense enhancements to Oregon's existing *Safety of Healthcare Employees* law:

- Nurses should never fear retaliation for reporting safety concerns in their workplace.
- Security assessments and annual workplace violence program evaluations and reports will encourage transparency and reveal the true scope of violence in healthcare.

Emergency department staff deserve workplaces that are transparent, supportive, and free from violence.

The Oregon Emergency Nurses Association applauds Senate Bill 823 and requests your support for the safety of emergency nurses and all caregivers.

Thank you,

Bill Schueler, MSN, RN, CEN, CPPS, WVTS

Oregon Emergency Nurses Association

Government Affairs Chairperson

1. Renker, P., Scribner, S. A., & Huff, P. Staff perspectives of violence in the emergency department: Appeals for consequences, collaboration, and consistency. *Work*. 2015;51(1):5-18.
2. Partridge B, Affleck J. Verbal abuse and physical assault in the emergency department: Rates of violence, perceptions of safety, and attitudes towards security. *Australasian Emergency Nursing Journal*. 2017; 20:139-145.
3. Rosenthal L, Byerly A, Taylor AD, et al. Impact and prevalence of physical and verbal violence toward healthcare workers. *Psychosomatics*. 2018;59(6):584-590.
4. Hyland S, Watts J, Fry M. Rates of workplace aggression in the emergency department and nurses' perceptions of this challenging behaviour: A multimethod study. *Australasian Emergency Nursing Journal*. 2016; 19:143-148.