



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION

3536 SE 26th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202-2901
503.236.4949
Toll Free 800.955.3352
Fax 503.238.6692
Toll Free Fax 888.595.7979
www.seiu49.org

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Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum, members of the
Committee:

For the record my name is Felisa Hagins, and I am testifying on behalf of SEIU Local 49. SEIU Local 49 represents more than 13,000 members throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our members include licensed practical nurses, respiratory therapists, radiologic technologists, nursing assistants, phlebotomists, laboratory assistants, customer service representatives, food service workers, housekeeping and many other healthcare classifications.

We know from our members experiences that health care workers are more likely to be injured as a result of workplace violence than other workers. According to US News and World Reports, approx. 654,000 health care workers are harmed per year on the job. Workplace violence in health care settings not only puts nurses and other health care workers at increased risk, it also limits the care health care workers can provide to patients.

We support SB 823 because health care workers should feel safe from retaliation if they report assault. In a survey of over 4500 nurses referenced by OSHA, only 69 percent of physical assaults and 71 percent of non-physical assaults were reported to a manager. They list reasons for underreporting as including a fear of retaliation.

Health care professionals can't keep us safe if they themselves aren't safe on the job. If we don't want to risk burnout, exacerbating existing staffing problems at health care facilities across our state, we must take action.

Thank you for your time and we encourage a yes vote on SB 823.

Felisa Hagins
Political Director
SEIU Local 49

