



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police

Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 3rd, 2022

Re: Testimony in support HB 4142-Assaulting a Hospital Worker

Chair Bynum and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4142.

HB 4142 elevates the crime of assault in the 4th degree to assault in the 3rd degree for a worker assaulted while working in a hospital while the worker is performing official duties.

Our law enforcement agencies and hospitals share a common mission to meet the acute needs of people during their most difficult and challenging times. Often, the challenges are complex, the stress and tension are high, and the risk to those responding to help is elevated. We believe an increased penalty for assaulting a hospital worker is necessary and appropriate and we support the measure.

We also acknowledge that both law enforcement and our hospital partners encounter individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis where violence is a possibility. In a hospital setting, these individuals can be combative toward health care workers who are trying to help them. We know that hospitals have procedures in place to take precautions when a person who has previously exhibited violence or is convicted for assault returns to the hospital for care. We are satisfied that a hospital will not deny care to a person who is charged with this level of crime who needs care in the future.

We urge you to support HB 4142 and we thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.