

Submitter: Renee Perry  
On Behalf Of: Shay Pugh  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4142

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Shay Pugh and I am writing in support of HB 4142. I have been an ICU nurse for over 10 years and in healthcare for over 13 years. I have witnessed and been on the receiving end of assault during my career. I personally have been kicked while pregnant, spit at, grabbed with the intent to harm, and been called quite a colorful array of names. I have a co-worker who was strangled, yet the man is free. I have a co-worker who's hand was broken, yet the man is free. I have a co-worker who was whipped over his head with monitoring cables, yet no punishment for the person. This has to stop. We have a job to do and want to keep showing up to do our best work. But, we need protection to be able to keep working long careers. Abuse to healthcare workers is another driver of an already stressed system. New nurses are leaving the field in droves because it is not worth it. We are short staffed, tired, seeing things we never thought could exist, and on top of it all abused by patients. Abuse and bodily harm by patients is something we can fix now. Please fix it.

I can write about all the things I have seen all day long, but I know time is short. If this does not pass this round I will lose what little shred of faith I have left in our state government.

Please pass this bill for me, my family, and all the people trying to do their best at what is often a thankless job. For most of us, in spite of the hard couple years, we love our jobs.

Kindly,  
Shay Pugh, BSN, RN, CCRN