



February 2, 2022

Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Samaritan Health Services support for HB 4142. Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents in the mid-Willamette Valley and central Oregon Coast.

At Samaritan Health Services, we are committed to the safety of our patients, employees, and workplaces. Therefore, we are pleased to **support HB 4142, the Healthcare Provider Protections Against Violence** act. Unfortunately, workplace violence is a daily occurrence in our emergency departments and staff are exposed to these incidents on a regular basis within our hospitals and clinics. This legislation will provide an added tool to discourage violence and further protect our highly valued employees.

HB4142 enacts common sense changes in statute to afford "hospital workers" the same workplace violence protections afforded to EMS providers, public transit and taxi operators, highway workers and others. Additionally, we appreciate inclusion of the standard of "...intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly" violating the law, which establishes that behavioral health crises and other acute mental health situations in the hospital setting should be addressed through appropriate channels.

Please join us in supporting HB 4142 and improving the safety of our patients, employees, and workplaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Bouska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bill Bouska, MPA  
Director Government Relations  
Samaritan Health Services