

Submitter: Renee Perry
On Behalf Of: Martin Johnson II MD Director Salem Hosp ICU
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4142

Dear Representative Shelly Boshart Davis:

As a healthcare worker for over the past 40 years, I am writing to express my strong support for your plans to introduce HB 4142 as an amendment to ORS 163.165 which expands the crime of assault in the third degree to include causing physical injury to person working in hospital while worker is performing official duties (Class C Felony). Unfortunately, I have witnessed many instances over the years where violence against nurses and other healthcare providers in the hospital perpetuated by patients has resulted in permanent physical disability and mental trauma. In some instances, this has resulted in the injured subsequently leaving the healthcare field altogether--something we desperately need to avoid given our crisis in healthcare provider shortage. Often the injured healthcare providers cite their frustration with lack of support and justice as their reason for resigning, and this legislation will be a valuable tool in supporting our colleagues as well as encouraging acceptable behavior in our violence-prone patients. Thank you again for introducing this amendment!

Martin C. Johnson II MD
Medical Director
Salem Hospital Intensive Care Unit