

Submitter: Renee Perry
On Behalf Of: Kaylee Corrado RN
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4142

Dear Committee,

I am writing today to ask for your support for healthcare workers by passing this legislation that would create penalties for those who knowingly and recklessly cause healthcare workers harm.

I am currently a RN who has worked at Salem Hospital Emergency Department for 11 years.

Through this time, I have seen patients becoming more and more aggressive and having less and less consequences for their actions. This has led to many of my colleagues and myself having periods of burnout, as well as leaving the profession all together.

As an ED Nurse, I knew that I would be directly involved in patients "worst day" scenarios causing them to act in ways that are not how they would normally act on public. I also knew that

I would be one of the first people to help mentally ill people in the throes of their diseases.

These people are not the ones that I am concerned about when I'm writing this letter for your support. I am writing on behalf of all healthcare personnel who have been assaulted by

someone who knowingly is endangering our lives. We are seen as caregivers, helpers, advocates for our patients and yet some still threaten, assault and endanger our lives in such horrific manners all with knowledge that there are no real consequences due to holes in our Oregon Legislation.

Salem Health does a stellar job at creating policies and committees whose entire purpose is against workplace violence however, without consequences for this who knowingly harm

healthcare workers, they have no "teeth" to back up their policies.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we were praised for being healthcare heroes and

caring for
others even when we ourselves were scared for our families and friends. I only ask
that you
would read this and see that healthcare workers are also entitled to feel safe from
intentional
harm.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Kaylee Corrado, BSN RN CEN