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On Behalf Of: Anonymous RN via ENA
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4142

Hi there,

I would like to keep my name out of any direct quotes but I am currently a RN in a community hospital in Oregon. Experiences I have on my nightly ER shifts have left me debating leaving emergency nursing all together.

Experiences:

I have been grabbed, pushed, kicked, hit, attempted to be choked and bit, I have had items thrown at me multiple times. I've had a patient say "I am going to wait outside and follow to you to your car and rape you", I've been told "I am going to murder you" sadly more than once. I have seen a patient take an IV pole and swing it at staff. I have had a patient armed with a butcher knife. I have been called countless explicit names nightly. I have been hit in the stomach while pregnant, along with another nurse I work with who had to be taken off the floor, after being hit in the stomach while pregnant due to abdominal pain. I've had a man grab my hand in an attempt to grope him while I was changing him out of soiled clothes. I truly could go on and on. These are just a very small number of incidents that have happened as so many go unnoticed. In most cases we don't even have the time to process what's happening to us as the patients keep flooding in and we are needed elsewhere. We are drained, mentally and physically. We deserve to know when we leave for work that we will not be harmed before coming home.

Getting multiple threats regarding my safety is a nightly occurrence. I have moved to part time from full time because I simply can't take the continued decrease in safety and feel like we have nowhere to turn. Nothing comes of these incidents and people know coming to the ER they will not have any legal repercussions. We deserve to feel safe at work, we deserve to feel like we are not punching bags for patients, we deserve more than this.