

Submitter: Ashley Cameron
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4142

Testimony

Hello. Thank you for hearing us nurses and healthcare workers today. Work place violence on healthcare staff has increased tremendously in the last few years. This is not an unknown fact. Many of us who are victims do not report said violence. Oregon is one of the few states that does not prosecute people for assaulting healthcare workers and many find this appalling. Healthcare workers devote their lives to helping others, caring, and loving others, just to be assaulted and to not feel safe at work is not ok. I have been a witness to violence toward my coworkers and I myself has also been a victim.

Just this summer I was working in an ER here in Oregon, I was only 7 weeks pregnant, my husband and I had been trying for over a year for this gift. We were so excited. I was helping with a pt who was being violent and a danger to self and others. They were able to kick me in the abdomen. Three weeks later we found out I had lost the baby. I'm not sure if there was a connection but it's hard too not make one. The police were called but there wasn't anything they could do.

I have had people pull knives on me, threaten my life, threaten my family, and follow me to my car. This is not ok and our government should not stand for this kind of behavior toward the people who are trying to help and care for their people. Thank you for your time