

Submitter: Renee Perry
On Behalf Of: Anonymous RN via ENA Letter 2
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4142

I am an RN in a Portland emergency department. I was punched in the face by a patient almost two years ago near the start of covid while working in my ED. I filed a police report with an officer who tried multiple times to convince me it wasn't worth his time since the DA wouldn't take the case as it was so minor. I called the DA office multiple times following up and was relieved to hear that they were taking the case. I followed up with our security to make sure the officer picked up the video of the event and I followed up with the DA office to make sure they received the video.

I was supposed to have my day in court recently whereby the DA's lawyers own admission would probably not involve much punishment if any for the defendant. I just wanted to show that you can't hit a healthcare worker and not have any repercussions, no matter how minor they might be under current laws. The day before my case was scheduled, I got a call from the lawyer saying that they have lost the tape and that the officer neglected to list my co-worker as a witness. The lawyer went on to say that the case would be my word against the defendants and their attorney would make it sound like it was my fault I was assaulted. I dropped the case because why even bother. They failed me. The state legislature continues to fail us all until we as healthcare workers get the same kind of protection from assault as you would have in your position. Ask yourself if you would've been assaulted by someone while on the job, would it have ended the way my case did. You want us to take care of you, but neglect to do the same for us.

Signed,

Just another RN who feels forgotten