

Submitter: Renee Perry  
On Behalf Of: Sarah Daniels MSN BSN RN CEN  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4142

I am writing in support of HB 4142. Unfortunately, violence towards healthcare worker has been increasing. I have worked for 10 years as an emergency department registered nurse. Encountering a violent patient is disappointingly an almost daily experience when working in the emergency department. Recently, I was the victim of an assault from a patient during my shift. I entered the patient's room to provide him with discharge paperwork. I had a security officer with me as the patient had expressed violent thoughts earlier during his visit. The patient was calmly lying on the stretcher. I informed the patient that I had his discharge paperwork and before I was able to finishing stating this he had jumped from lying to standing on the stretcher. Time seemed to slow down as he pushed the security officer out of the room and slammed the door to the room closed effectively trapping me in the corner of the room with him in front of me. My only escape from the room was behind the patient. As soon as he slammed the door shut, he turned and punched me in the side of the face. The actual assault only lasted seconds but the event was traumatic with lasting effects. Being cornered and assaulted makes you feel weak and helpless. This person made a decision to assault me and received minimal punishment. He was arrested and ended up having his hearing in front of the judge 10 days later. He was given a parole violation with time served and released from the court hearing. We should not continue to allow our healthcare workers to be assaulted during the course of their jobs. Experiences like this make me feel unsafe in my work environment and cause continual stress. This behavior should not be acceptable. Assault and violence is not a part of our job description as healthcare workers and we need protection. HB 4142 will help protect healthcare workers like me and communicate that committing violent acts against healthcare workers is not acceptable. I support HB 4142.

Sarah Daniels, MSN, BSN, RN, CEN