



February 5, 2024,

Chair Grayber, Vice-chairs Lewis and Tran, and members of the Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

For the record, my name is Corie Seiders, and I'm a member of AFSCME Local 3295, the Oregon State Hospital Nurses. I want to share my full support for HB 4045 which creates a new "Hazardous" category within PERS for employees of the Oregon State Hospital who have direct contact with patients and 911 operators who directly work with or manage emergency or traumatic events in the regular course of work. This bill has various components but I want to shed light on one specific portion which directly impacts the life of my coworkers who are also your state employees.

The work we perform at OSH is unique and comes with its challenges. Medical providers respond to Code Blues (medical emergency) throughout the hospital. This includes assessing staff members who have been severely assaulted. This causes so much anxiety in me and instills a fear of being assaulted by a patient as well. I have been kicked in the stomach, grabbed in the crotch, lunged at, and chased down the hallway. I consider myself lucky that this is all I have endured. It is impossible not to carry the burden of working in this stressful environment at home. I feel it helps to vent to my family, but I try to limit this due to the horrors of some of the things that have happened to staff.

HB 4045 could help workers at OSH, like me, receive the benefits we deserve. By creating this new category for OSH and 911 telecommunicators, we could attract folks into the workforce who engage 24/7 in work that is high-risk and causes high stress.

I strongly urge your support and appreciate your consideration of this bill. Please pass HB 4045.

Thank you for your time,

Corie Seiders