



Oregon Center for
N U R S I N G

Testimony for the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Regarding HB 4088

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I am writing to express my strong support for HB4088, a bill that represents a critical step forward in addressing the alarming rates of workplace violence faced by healthcare professionals, particularly our nurses, across the state of Oregon. This legislation is not only a measure to protect our valued healthcare workers but also a vital strategy to mitigate the ongoing nurse vacancy crisis that threatens the quality of patient care in our state.

The link between workplace safety and workforce retention cannot be overstated. According to a [report published by National Nurses United](#), almost half of nurses in a study of workplace violence reported an **increase** in violence in their unit over the previous year. This staggering figure underscores the urgent need for legislative action to protect our nurses from violence and ensure their workplace is a safe environment.

Moreover, the report highlights that 65 percent of nurses reported that workplace violence resulted in anxiety, fear or increased vigilance, and about 37 percent said they considered leaving the profession because of the violence. This sentiment directly contributes to the nurse vacancy crisis in Oregon, which compromises patient care and increases the strain on our healthcare system.

Implementing the measures proposed in HB 4088 will not only protect our healthcare workforce but also make the nursing profession more appealing to both current and prospective nurses. By ensuring that nurses feel safe and supported in their workplaces, we can address one of the root causes of the vacancy crisis and move towards a more stable healthcare system.

The evidence is clear: reducing workplace violence is a critical step in retaining and recruiting nurses in Oregon. Please support HB4088 and take action to protect our healthcare workers, thereby ensuring the well-being of all Oregonians. Our nurses deserve to work in an environment where their safety is a priority, and this bill is a pivotal move towards that goal.