

I cannot support HB 4088 without an exclusion from felony charges for persons experiencing an intellectual disability, developmental disability, delirium, dementia, traumatic brain injury, severe persistent mental illness or other condition that significantly impairs the person's judgment or behavior.

The removal of the exclusion of these conditions that was in the original bill does nothing to safeguard healthcare workers. A Class C felony has a maximum of 5 years in prison and/or a \$125,000 fine.

This shifts the burden to the already burdened legal system and relieves the hospital systems of training staff to work with these patient populations and providing adequate staffing for their needs for both patient and staff safety. This is criminalizing vulnerable patient populations, removing them from the hospital setting to where? Jails and Oregon State Hospital are already full. Can they "be restored to competency" to even stand trial? My autistic family member has a lifelong disability and would not even understand the situation.

It could take multiple legal proceedings before the legal case is settled. Where will they find adequate legal representation if they don't have the funds?

There is a critical shortage of public defenders in Oregon and the patients arrested may not be able to afford private legal representation.

I worked as a RN for over 30 years in both medical-surgical and psychiatric settings. I support healthcare worker safety, but this is not the way. It creates a new set of problems for the legal system and vulnerable groups of people who already have difficulty accessing healthcare.

The system is already broken. The people who need the help the most are being made scapegoats for the failure of the system to accommodate their needs and staff needs. This will have a chilling impact on access to healthcare for these populations.

I oppose HB 4088 as amended and I ask you to please vote no. Thank you.

