

Submitter: Kyle Colleen Black  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4088

I am opposed to the portion of HB4088 that expands the crime of Assault in the Third Degree to include causing physical injury to a person working in a hospital while worker is performing official duties. Violence in society is ever increasing and recognizing that any persons whose employment involves interacting with the public are exposing themselves to potentially being harmed. Employment fields such as: teaching, grocery/convenient store clerks, counselors/therapists, security guards, airline personnel all face the possibility of being harmed. Industries such as these and individual citizens arm themselves against the potential of being harmed because it is an everyday threat.

As a society if we are not willing to look at the news, media, gaming and entertainment industries that promote, glorify and make money from violence, we will be subject to what it has created within our communities and citizens. Continuing to use criminalization as a tool to address the increasing violent actions within society is not the answer. This bill and many others that are focused on additional or enhanced criminalization are false solutions, and they further contribute to the problems that exist within our communities and correctional systems.