



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Jason Kropf, Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Tom Anderson, Vice-Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Kim Wallan, Vice-Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: February 14, 2024

Re: OMA Comments in Support of HB 4088 with -2 Amendments

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is an advocacy driven organization serving over 7,000 physicians, physician assistants, and medical and PA students throughout the state of Oregon. For over 150 years, we have worked to improve the practice of medicine and patient care for all Oregonians.

The OMA is writing in strong support for HB 4088 and the -2 Amendments. We worked closely with the workgroup led by Rep. Nelson and Rep. Boshart Davis to find common ground for the purpose of protecting health care workers from the growing epidemic of assault while ensuring that those suffering from mental health crises are not penalized for their condition.

While the OMA agrees that protecting patients with severe mental illness and intellectual or development disability (IDD) from over criminalization is of the utmost importance, we also understand the penalty for the malicious assault of health care workers in our hospitals must be more severe. There are enhanced penalties for assault on other occupations, and the same should apply to those we count on to care for us when our condition warrants a hospital visit.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote yes on HB 4088 with -2 Amendments.

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is the state's largest professional organization engaging in advocacy, policy, community-building, and networking opportunities for Oregon's physicians, physician assistants, medical students, and physician assistant students. The OMA's members speak with one voice as they advocate for policies that improve access to quality patient care, reduce administrative burdens on medical professionals, and improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.