

Submitter: Marianne Parshley MD FACP
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4088

Dear committee,

I am speaking as a primary care general internist in NE Portland for 37+ years and as a recent inpatient at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital where there was a shooting death of a security guard, and as someone who has cared for many with cognitive and mental health issues who have been temporarily or permanently unable to make clear decisions.

I wholeheartedly support this bill in part because it contains provisions to protect patients who have impaired decision making which could cause them to act out. However, as the shooting event at Good Sam (and multiple other sites around the country) shows, staff and clinicians at ERs and hospitals are at risk of being victims of violence from angry people with or without weapons.

I ALSO want to point out that outpatient clinics and facilities have these same risks and far fewer protections than the large inpatient facilities. In the last 4 years, multiple violent events have occurred around and in ambulatory clinics across the country. In recent years our particular clinic has had to hire several full time security officers and eventually built a fence around our parking lot because of attempted violence outside our building (including one attempted carjacking) and use of street drugs in cars, the parking lot and in our waiting room bathroom. I have had a patient knocked to the ground outside and her purses stolen. We also in the last 6 months had an individual physically threaten our front desk staff, one of whom was very frightened, and another individual pulled a knife in the exam room on my medical assistant (who is a tough cookie and told him to cool it).

For these reasons, I hope in the bill or a subsequent amendment or update, we extend the criminal penalties for violence against health care workers against perpetrators (without mental impairment) to those who commit these offenses around or in outpatient clinics.

So I urge you to pass this bill AND extend the protections/penalties beyond just the hospital grounds and facilities to outpatient clinics and facilities.

Thank you! Marianne Parshley MD FACP