

Submitter: Brook clark
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB537

My name is Brook Clark, and I am a registered Nurse in the state of Oregon writing to express my support of this very important bill in curbing healthcare workplace violence. I work in a community hospital, on a general floor. I believe that the work I do is valuable and necessary, but sometimes I don't know how long I can do this work. I have personally been attacked multiple times at work, and have seen coworkers attacked at work. I have been kicked, hit, scratched and slapped. I have had family members threaten to hurt me, to break my nose, to "make me pay". All for doing my job to the best of my abilities. Every day I come to work I am thinking in the back of my mind, what threats or potential situations do I need to worry about today? Earlier this year, I had a visitor trying to go into a different patient's room. He was going in and out of rooms of vulnerable hospitalized people that he did not know. When I asked him to return to his loved one's room, he got very close to me and threatened to break my nose. I got away from him quickly and went to my supervisor. Ultimately they got into a verbal fight and he stormed out of the building. I spent the rest of that night worried he would return to hurt me or my coworkers, and ended up needing therapy because I was so fearful of this person. Myself, and nurses like me, do not get into this profession for the thrill of fighting with people. We do this to help our community, to come together with other health experts to solve problems and improve outcomes. I strongly support this bill and believe that it would directly impact myself and others in healthcare by making the workplace safer. When staff are safe, they have more time to focus on what really matters - providing excellent patient-centered care.