

Submitter: Holly Simpson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB537

Dear members of the senate committee,

A rising epidemic of workplace violence threatens healthcare workers, our patients and our community. Serious injuries from workplace violence rose 181% in hospitals from 2007-2022 and 92% of ONA members surveyed reported experiencing workplace violence last year.

These attacks harm healthcare workers and patients directly and indirectly—leaving physical, mental and emotional scars; disrupting care; delaying treatments; and driving providers out of their chosen professions.

We can end this cycle of violence. Oregon Senate Bill 537 (SB 537) offers proven violence prevention and support strategies that give caregivers the tools and support we need to make healthcare safer for patients and providers.

Let's make our patient care settings safer for the healthcare workers who dedicate their lives caring for others.

Thank you for your consideration.