

Testimony in Support of SB 537

Oregon Legislature

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Ann Rivas, and I am a Master's prepared Registered Nurse with 15 years of experience in home health and hospice. I am here today to speak in strong support of SB 537 because no nurse should have to choose between caring for their patients and their own personal safety.

In home health and hospice, I go wherever the patient calls home and the care I provide is often the only care they receive. I have spent nights, weekends, and holidays answering calls for help—showing up in unfamiliar neighborhoods at 2 a.m. when a loved one is struggling to breathe or in pain, stepping into homes to heal, teach, comfort, and problem-solve.

And most of the time - I do this alone.

I have been chased, screamed at, spit on, robbed, and hit. And still—I show up.

We show up. Because that's what we do.

But the risks we face should never be an accepted part of the job. Safety isn't a privilege—it's a basic expectation, and right now, that expectation is not being met. SB 537 is a step in the right direction.

What I am asking for today is simple. Help. An answer to **our** call so that we may continue responding to those in need. The people of Oregon—your constituents, your loved ones—will, at some point, need us. It is an inevitable part of life. And while we are honored to share that burden - shouldn't the path be clear and safe for us to help carry it?

I urge you to pass SB 537 and help us better ensure the safety of the nurses, like me, who will one day show up right when and where you need them.

Thank you.

Emily Ann Rivas, MSN, RN, CWCN, CHPN

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