

Submitter: Renee Perry  
On Behalf Of: Ashley Wendel  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4142

To whom it may concern,

I would like to show my support for legislation that would impose a clear set of rules and punishment for attacking health care workers. I remember when I got hired being told that we are close to 60% more likely be assaulted in the daily line of work than a police officer.... at first I thought that was a bit extreme, but depending on the location and season it is unfortunately all too common to run into violent patients.

The hospital I work at has done a good job at getting us de-escalation training. But unfortunately people still get hurt. At a previous job I was once put into a head lock by a patient who grabbed me from behind very unexpectedly. At this job CNA's are one of the first to get hurt as they sit in 1:1 assignments with violent histories or of unknowingly violent patients as they detox from substance abuse. And I want to stand by them and say it is unacceptable to treat healthcare workers like that and have little to no consequence. I've seen too many coworkers get punched, kicked, strangled, have shoulders torn, and more..... protect the ones who have dedicated their life to helping others.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Wendel