

Submitter: Mikayela Arendt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4142

Hello,

This bill would make an amazing impact on my life and the lives of co workers that badly need this law to be passed. 6 years ago I started my job to help people with illness and quickly I realized how scary and dangerous my job became. I have come into contact with very violent offenders on a daily basis and those who tell me they assault people because there is no consequences. We took this job to help people not to worry every day if we are going to go home safe at the end of the day. Hearing constant code greens meaning behavioral codes and worrying non stop if someone's been badly injured has left me with ptsd. In 2016 and 2017 I ended up needing surgery on my hip to repair damages from take downs. In 2017 I was assaulted by a patient because the patient wanted weed. I had the patient attack me kicking me very hard into a wall in the same hip I was waiting to have hip surgery on. I have seen so many people that I dearly care about get assaulted by patients on a daily basis with no legal recourse for them. They are told that they can't press charges because they don't have this protection. This would be life altering for so many people that do this job on a daily basis and just want to go home safe. Ive seen so many things people getting their head bashed in, kicked, punched, thrown into walls, spit on, bit, chemicals thrown on them, hair ripped out, traumatic brain injury, burns from hot liquids, bodily fluids thrown at staff. We are tired this is long overdue. We could badly use your support. I face mental health issues from all that I have witnessed but still show up to hope that someday something will change and help provide justice for those who badly need and deserve it. One of the strongest, most amazing people I know is still facing a battle from a brutal assault on her three years ago. Instead of her focusing on getting better she was victimized all over again. That day she was assaulted will be forever ingrained in my mind like it was yesterday I can remember all the details like it was yesterday. I can't forget the blood curtailing screams from my co workers and them crying out for help. She deserves justice for what happened and this bill could provide that justice. You never thought you would sign up to help others and sacrifice so much of your wellbeing and mental health to do so. These people are like family and I would give anything to be able to know that we had the legal backing of this law. Employees leave the hospital not because they can't do the job but because the daily fear they have for their safety and nothing being done to ensure that we will be going home to our families and love ones. Please help in providing this life altering decision for health care workers. I think it will greatly reduce the staff assaults and in the long run be able to help retain employees. This would be huge for healthcare workers and prove to us that we aren't hired just to be punching bags and our life matters.