

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

Hello,

I also have an update to the story below.

This week, the patient that I mentioned in the story below returned to our emergency department and as he was being discharged he punched a security officer in the face and then spat in the face of a nurse. He was COVID positive and he knew this. Both of those staff members did press charges against the patient. The sad part is that police officers came and cited him but eventually he was released. He never taken to jail or anything.

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I work as an emergency nurse in a level 2 trauma center in Oregon.

Just last week I had a patient who was not wearing a mask and our hospital policy is that all patients wear masks. I bring a mask to the patient and ask that he puts on the mask. The patient takes the masks from me and throws it aside and says "man, get the fuck out of my face with that". I explain to the patient that he needs to wear a mask while in the hospital and this riles him up and he stands up and starts yelling at me and begins to posture his body and fists in a way that shows he is about to strike me. Other staff members luckily show up and security is called and the situation this time did not result in any violence. This situation could have easily resulted in the patient striking me and assaulting me if my staff had not been right there. This is the environment we are often in. One where we have to have extra staff or security stand by because we are afraid of physical violence and verbal abuse towards us on a daily basis. If the patient had struck me I wonder what repercussions he would have faced. Apparently, with the current laws he would not even get a class C felony. If this patient had been at a bank or a grocery store and the same situation happened and he struck a worker, what would happen in that situation?

Why are assaults on healthcare workers in a hospital seen as less serious and do not carry the same penalties than outside of that setting? Why is that when an EMS worker brings in a patient to the hospital and that patient hits the EMS worker and the hospital worker at the same time, it is a class C felony for hitting the EMS worker but it is not for the hospital worker. That does not make sense.

I hope that this information and my personal experiences can be beneficial to this

great cause.

Thank you for your effort and time.

-Konstantin N