



February 13, 2024

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Submitted electronically via OLIS

RE: HB 4088, relating to safety of persons working in hospitals

Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

The Hospital Association of Oregon and our 61 member hospitals are committed to workplace violence prevention policies that support workers, patients, and their family and friends, and help victims seeking justice. Hospitals are places of healing, and it is vital we improve collective safety and security. The hospital association supports the package of policies in –2 amendment of HB 4088.

We appreciate that Representative Nelson and Representative Boshart Davis convened stakeholders to develop workplace violence prevention proposals, and we appreciated the opportunity to contribute. HB 4008 –2 amendment reflects the collaborative efforts of a variety of stakeholders.

Oregon’s hospitals have done a tremendous amount of work to protect and in some instances support the healing process for their workers from violence in the workplace, but they need the additional support from the Legislature that the –2 amendment of HB 4088 would provide. The package in the –2 amendment of HB 4088 includes important policies that safeguard the well-being of hospital staff and hold up our collective value of hospitals as places of healing. The bill will provide an additional tool to law enforcement and provides hospital workers with protections similar to those currently available to some other workers in Oregon, such as emergency medical services providers. In addition, the bill would empower local hospital safety committees to do the work that is best for their community with the support of state funding.



We are grateful for Representative Nelson's leadership on this bill, and we appreciate this opportunity to express our support for the passage of the package of policies in the -2 amendment of HB 4088.

Sincerely,



Sean Kolmer
Executive Vice President of External Affairs
Hospital Association of Oregon

About the Hospital Association of Oregon

Founded in 1934, the Hospital Association of Oregon (HAO) is a mission-driven, nonprofit trade association representing Oregon's 61 hospitals. Together, hospitals are the sixth largest private employer statewide, employing more than 70,000 employees. Committed to fostering a stronger, safer, more equitable Oregon where all people have access to the high-quality care they need, the hospital association supports Oregon's hospitals so they can support their communities; educates government officials and the public on the state's health landscape and works collaboratively with policymakers, community based organizations and the health care community to build consensus on and advance health care policy benefiting the state's 4 million residents.



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