

Submitter: Anne Groundwater
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4088

I'm an emergency nurse who has worked at the Providence Portland ED for five years. I strongly support the passage of this bill. In the past month alone, we've had 4 documented workplace violence cases in our department. One of our nurses was attacked by a patient and injured to the point that she currently does not feel safe coming back to work. Bear in mind these are just the cases that were reported; often a nurse will decline to report due to not wanting to figure out filing a report or feeling like nothing will come from reporting. Many nurses I've known have left emergency nursing citing the violence and unpredictability of patients as big factors for their departure. We need to do something to correct this, and having signage that informs the public of criminal charges they could face and having a publicized instructions that enables staff to report incidents are steps in the right direction. A statewide hospital reporting process would reveal how bad a problem this is in Oregon and potentially provide ideas for solutions. We need this bill to help nurses feel safer so that they stop leaving the field and worsening our healthcare staffing crisis.