

Date: February 13, 2024  
To: The House Committee On Judiciary  
From: Travis Moffett, RN  
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4088-2

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Wallan and Andersen and members of the Committee,

My name is Travis Moffett and I am a registered nurse and member of ONA. I cannot stress enough that nurses are tired of rising violence against us. Having stiff consequences — which change the culture of what is allowed in hospitals — for these patients'/visitors' actions is past due. We are in dire need of deterrents as well as the backstop of knowing our employers and legal system are working in our defense.

We are the care team. We cannot keep providing the care if we are taken out of commission by injury — or retirement or transfer to another setting because we are afraid or exhausted of these conditions.

In the hospital where I work, I see violence commonly. I have had numerous injuries in my working career. In a recent incident, I was kicked in the chest multiple times and a security guard was kicked in the nose.

We know how dangerous the job is. We know the work sometimes is to calm a patient. That's exactly what I was doing when this kicking occurred — attempting to talk them down from agitation. But as you can tell the danger is too great, and the lines of acceptable versus unacceptable behavior — even for those who are under our care — have to be reinforced.

I support HB 4088-2 and I urge the Committee and the entire legislature to do the same. Let's keep working at this crisis-level problem of workplace violence against health workers — with legal, and signage, and grant-funded facility-specific approaches.