

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

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

My name is Erin Harrington, I'm a registered nurse and the chair of my bargaining unit, the nurses at St. Charles Bend, part of Oregon Nurses Association.

At St. Charles Bend, we know we have a collection of some of the worst recent incidents of health workers being violated and injured on the job. It is a frequent problem, and it makes the function, or disfunction, of the criminal justice response of clamorous interest to our bargaining unit.

Seeing to it that our legal system is moved into action with clear paths to consequences for people who harm health care workers is absolutely a priority for my members and myself. I imagined a long ICU career for myself as a nurse, caring for our sickest patients, but after seven years in the ICU, I tapped out of that department from exhaustion of the routine violence.

We need new approaches, like holding more people to account, creating more safeguards in the facility, and expecting more from hospital employers, other stakeholders, and all who can contribute to an overarching safety culture. For these reasons I join the thousands of Oregon nurses wanting your support of HB 4088-2.