

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Jason Kropf  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4088-2 – Workplace Violence Prevention

Dear Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

As Oregon’s largest health care provider, Providence’s highest priority is the health and safety of our caregivers, our patients, and our communities, which means ensuring our hospitals are places of healing. As such, we respectfully request you join us in support of HB 4088-2 amendment to reduce hospital workplace violence.

Providence takes caregiver and patient safety seriously, and we are committed to continue supporting and investing in the health and well-being of our caregivers. The tragedy at Legacy Good Samaritan in 2023 brings home the unnerving reality of violence in health care, which takes a variety of forms – ranging from verbal aggression to physical assault, including the use of deadly weapons. We know that hospitals both within Oregon and across the country are experiencing a significant increase of workplace violence and incivility in the workplace, and we have an opportunity to collectively support policy solutions this legislative session that address workplace violence prevention against health care workers.

There are three core components in the -2 amendment that we believe will enact foundational protections for frontline health care workers. These include:

- Increasing the criminal penalty: We support increasing the charge of assault to persons knowingly causing injury to hospital employees acting in official duty.
- Public and employee notice: We support increasing signage requirements indicating it is a crime to cause injury to a health care worker and employee signage around rights, protections, and reporting assaults.
- Data reporting and transparency: We support leveraging existing data being collected and reported to OSHA and sending to DCBS in efforts to create additional transparency and inform future policies.

Thank you to Representatives Nelson and Boshart Davis for facilitating discussions across a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a meaningful policy solution that will improve the care environment for frontline caregivers and patients to improve workplace safety. We recognize the complexity of the issue and appreciate the opportunity to voice our support for HB 4088-2.

Respectfully,



William Olson  
Chief Executive – Oregon  
Providence Health & Services