

Submitter: Kelly Peeler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4088

I urge you to support all measures put forth in this bill. While Providence Portland Medical Center has put measures such as use of a drug seeking dog and a metal detector in place in effort to make the hospital safer, they fall short. One entrance (near the emergency department) has the metal detector, so if I wanted to enter the building with a weapon and I saw the metal detector and security, all I would need to do is enter at the main hospital entrance where there is no security presence and no metal detector. That entrance is approximately 50 feet away. There are several other entrances that are open and unmonitored. I come to the hospital on call in the middle of the night I strategically select where I park and continuously look over my shoulder as no security presence is visible. I was once confronted in the parking area demanding access to a locked entrance so a bathroom could be used after being denied entry at the ED. I had to walk with the agitated person all the way to the ED where security should have been present but was called on my arrival. Meanwhile, a person with a heart attack was delayed that time it took me to seek safety. It is concerning that I have entered the hospital for the last several years in the middle of the night never seeing a security presence. I hear "code gray" several times per day indicating a person with assaultive behavior that needs attention. It places us as healthcare workers at risk and the other patients and other visitors at risk. Especially the others, being vulnerable and not always recognizing their need to stay away. Even with deescalation training, which only some healthcare workers receive based on their unit they work, is good training, we can not continue to be harassed and assaulted. One example of a non-violent assault was when working in the ED, a man intoxicated with illicit substances walked into another patient's room and urinated on her as she laid there suffering a stroke and unable to move. Staff in the area working, overwhelmed by the volume and acuity of patients in the environment, were unable to intervene in time. Providence knows we are overwhelmed by our mental health care services needed in the hospital but have yet to put measures effective enough in place for everyone's safety. The hospital administrators need to do more as they work from home, to protect healthcare workers in the hospital. For healthcare workers protection and the protection of patients and the family and the visitors of our patients in our hospital.