

Submitter: Aura Carr
On Behalf Of: Developmental Disabilities Community
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4088

To: Rep Kropf, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
From: Aura Carr, Lead Personal Agent Supervisor, Full Access High Desert
Re: Opposition for HB 4088: Requires hospitals to take certain actions with respect to protecting hospital employees from workplace assaults.

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

I am a Lead Personal Agent for Full Access High Desert, a Support Service Brokerage serving approximately 400 clients within Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson and Lake Counties. I have worked in this field for 21 years and currently have individuals that I support in my role that are high risk related to HB 4088.

I support a man age 44 and weighs about 175lbs. He has a diagnosis of Traumatic Brain Injury and has a fear of medical and police service providers. There have been instances when EMTs needed to come to his home for medical reasons and he did engage in physical resistance and hostility toward these EMTs due to his misunderstanding that they had poor intentions.

My client does know right from wrong and can be rational, but unfortunately for him, he also has trauma around medical and police service providers and this has caused him to respond inappropriately at times. He needs someone onsite with him to help explain why they are needed, what they plan to do, how they will keep him safe and prompt him with coping strategies when he starts to become anxious or volatile. The police in his city have also had negative interactions with him when they came to check on him when he wasn't expecting them to. All of these situations can be prevented if there is a coordinated effort with this client, but he is at risk that if he needed to be hospitalized but didn't understand why could set him up to be resistant. Please reconsider bill HB 4088 to exclude those with an I/DD diagnosis. Many of these individuals do not understand the severe consequences of which HB 4088 could be used for.

Thank you for hearing my concern with this bill and oppose this bill on behalf of those I serve.

Aura Carr,
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