

Submitter: Justin Emmons
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4088

I currently work with a number of people with disabilities that could be adversely affected by this bill. Some have weathered the horrific abuse that took place in Fairview, and in particular they may have trouble with seeing health care workers. One man is very triggered by seeing somebody in a lab coat due to the systematic abuse he faced while held at Fairview.

I don't believe it is helpful to punish those who have faced systematic past abuse in the state's own broken system. Fight or Flight responses are real, and when caring for those who have been abused, all segments of health support should work for them in a way that doesn't punish them for the trauma that was forced on them against their will. Trauma response is real and should be treated with care, not threatened with punishment.

Beyond those who have disabilities, there are also those that have other traumas that will be affected. I personally know a number of rape and sexual assault victims who are triggered to fight or flight responses. Again, should they be punished when they are triggered?

Certainly I believe that health care workers should be safe on the job. If hospitals would train staff to keep themselves safe in certain events, I believe it would do more to keep their staff safe than this bill would.