



February 13, 2024

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Wallan and Members of the Committee:

For the record my name is Bridgette Jones and I am in full support of this bill that would make it a felony to attack, assault a healthcare worker at the workplace. I've been assaulted physically more than once here at OHSU Doernbecher. I was racially attacked because of my skin color. Which consisted of racial slurs, insults, cursing and verbal abuse, bullying, verbal aggression, verbal threats of violence, verbal assault. My life was threatened with physical harm by the father of the patient that was waiting to be seen in our clinic. The father/parent continued to assault me verbally as he paced back and forth with violent aggression. He then walked down the hallway and attempted to enter one of the clinic rooms to demand to talk with my supervisor. The father/parent was approached and stopped by a facility employee before he could enter into a clinic room that was in process.

This type of behavior was taking place in the lobby of the clinic at OHSU Doernbecher where the entire lobby was full of patients and families waiting to be seen in our clinics that day. Every individual that was present in the lobby was at risk of physical harm. It was traumatizing and I feared for my life. Patients/families members were fearful and asking for help as well as myself.

HB 4088 specifically outlines, "With knowledge that another person is working in a hospital, intentionally or knowingly causes physical injury to the working person while the working person is acting in the course of official duty." The -2 amendments also further provide clearer provisions in terms of reporting, transparency and accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this bill and urge the committee to vote yes on HB 4088.

Bridgette Jones
Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC)
Oregon Health & Science University