

Submitter: Jacek Haciał PsyD
On Behalf Of: DynamicChanges LLC
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4088

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Wallen, and Committee members,

I am a retired Psychologist having worked in hospital and residential settings for over 30 years treating individuals experiencing mental illness, developmental disability, brain injury, and other neurodevelopmental challenges. I am intimately familiar with the risks involved with emergency room and inpatient care, and I helped train hospital employees in the prevention and management of aggressive behaviors. I was never assaulted personally, and when I did witness assaults, it routinely involved employee lack of training about how to deescalate a developing aggressive situation and/or ineffective procedural protocols. I'm writing to ask you to oppose Section 6 of the -2 amendment to HB 4088. This legislation will criminalize disability-related behavior and do serious harm to people with disabilities' access to healthcare.

Section 6 of the -2 amendment has now removed language it had contained to carve out people with disabilities from the enhanced felony crime included in HB 4088. It was unexpectedly removed at the last minute.

I strongly support resources to make hospital workers safer, but HB 4088-2 now further discriminates against people with disabilities and criminalize disability related behavior.

I ask that any bill passed responsibly exclude people with intellectual disability, developmental disability, dementia, traumatic brain injury, mental illness, or other condition that significantly impair the person's judgment or behavior.

Please oppose HB 4088 in its current form, and demand removal of Section 6 of the -2 amendment.

Thank you.

Jacek (Jack) Haciał, PsyD