

Submitter: Chad Kernutt  
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB588

Please vote YES on SB-588, my name is Chad Kernutt and I am a correctional officer in the ODOC. I have witnessed 4 fellow officers have to quit due to PTSD sustained from our job and the hellish environment, and the constant verbal abuses by the AIC's, and the stresses of our job. I know 3 officers who had to retire early due injuries sustained from assaults by AIC's, I have witnessed more assaults on officers than I can count, and I myself have been assaulted over 10 times in 11 years by AIC's (not counting injuries sustained while being on planned extraction teams). From the assaults I have torn both shoulders receiving surgeries due to the injuries, injured my back, I have herniated and bulging disc's in my neck vertebrae, I have been cut, had my head split open, received multiple concussions, been head butted, poop bombed, pee bombed, spit on, attacked with weapons and more. I for sure have PTSD from the job that I have not gone in to a doctor for or taken extended leave of absences for and I could fully understand why correctional officers, patrol officers, and firefighters after an extended duration on the job experiencing traumatic events could reach the point where their PTSD gets so bad that they need to leave their jobs. The negative/stressful/traumatic experiences/realities we've had and faced from Governors, lawmakers, directors/superintendents/management, felony offenders in custody, and the public post george floyd and post covid has also contributed to the rise in PTSD in law enforcement and fire departments. Please vote YES on SB-588, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Chad Kernutt  
Albany, Oregon  
IN GOD WE TRUST