Submitter: Sara Adams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB537

I have been a nurse for 17 yrs. Violence has increased publicly in society and henceforth in the health care field. In Portland, we laid witness to the shooting at Legacy Good Samaritan. My friends were working that day. People were injured and some died, and many were traumatized, even beyond that hospital. There was recent hostage situation in Pennsylvania with people killed as well. Domestic terrorism is intensifying in the U.S. and hospitals are not a safe place to work anymore. We need to more security and protections. At OHSU we only have a metal detector in the ER; whilst patients, visitors, and the public roam our halls and units. Nursing is expected to sift through patient belongings risking exposure to needles, fentanyl, and who knows what else without any training or protections. We have actual police and security on our campus and this rests on nursing. There is still no easy way to lock down a unit or hospital quickly enough to contain or protect from a shooter. Many times we have had people just follow others onto a unit. I've witnessed patients be abused by visitors in their own rooms. Drs, nurses, CNAs be hit. I myself have had people hit, kick, and swing at me. I've been spit at, had extensive verbal abuse. I know a CNA who at 20 yrs old ended up with a TBI from a patient punching her in the head repeatedly and can't work in healthcare anymore. Nurses are expected to be exposed to people the way police officers are but we have not protections or ways to protect ourselves. I support this bill.