

March 19, 2025

TO: Senate Committee On Health Care

Testimony in Support of SB 537

FROM: Elizabeth Kruse

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

As a nurse I work with potentially assaultive patients on a daily basis. Despite my vigilance, patience, and de-escalation attempts I have been assaulted multiple times. Nursing staff are on the front lines of a healthcare system that can be very difficult to navigate, and stressful for our patients. Organizations that provide health care services are obligated to protect us from harm directly related to patient frustration. The moral injury compounds the physical injury and leads to staff burnout and nurses leaving the profession. Thank you for helping us ask for more support.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I urge your support of SB 537.