

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Diane Larson, Chair
March 11, 2025
HB 1341

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Marissa Weiand and I am asking you to **vote yes on HB 1341**. I have been a registered nurse for eight years and work in an acute care hospital.

My team is in charge of caring for some of the sickest patients admitted to the hospital. I am passionate about the healthcare profession and proud of the care we provide to patients and their families.

Unfortunately, violence in healthcare settings is increasing at a rate that is leaving healthcare workers at great risk for injury. I have been punched in the face, grabbed inappropriately, once being grabbed so tightly the patient's fingernails ripped through my skin. We are working hard to train our employees in crisis and violence de-escalation, installing metal detectors and hiring more security officers, but the number of nurses and allied staff being assaulted is still increasing.

We need your help. Though increasing the penalty for assaulting healthcare workers will not fix the problem, it most definitely will help.

My husband works in law enforcement and is protected by the higher penalty and I am grateful for that. Emergency workers, jail workers and State Hospital workers are protected by the higher penalty. Hospital workers caring for patients and their families should be included in that level of penalty. Just like the others included, we do not have the ability to stop doing our jobs when a patient hurts us and we do not have the ability to pick who we do and do not serve.

Thank you for your consideration. On behalf healthcare workers in our state who take care of patients and their families when they need us most, I am asking you to vote yes on HB 1341.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Marissa Weiand
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