

2025 House Bill no. 1341
House Judiciary Committee
Representative Klemin, Chairman
January 28, 2025

Chairman Klemin and Committee Members, my name is Brittney Blake and I am Corporate Counsel of Altru Health System. Like other health systems across the country and state, Altru has experienced an increase in violence toward our staff since 2020. When violence occurs at Altru, our small legal and security teams work together to help to deescalate situations and call law enforcement when necessary.

Altru stands in support of HB 1341 on behalf of our workforce and the dedicated employees who face violence by patients almost daily, for our nurses, our technicians, for our providers, and students.

Altru supports HB1342 to deter people from knowingly harming or attempting to harm our employees.

Prior to coming to Altru, I was a prosecutor in Grand Forks County. I prosecuted both criminal and civil cases, including civil commitments of patients at Altru. I am well aware of the incidents of violence involving patients experiencing mental health or chemical dependency crisis, as well as patients becoming agitated or violent due to dementia or a diabetic episode. Those are not the incidents of violence we are addressing through HB 1341. Altru stands to share that there are patients, especially since the pandemic, who knowingly assault our staff because they are upset with their care plan, or the wait, or their discharge time, or a handful of things.

We stand in support of this bill, as a clear message to health care workers at our organization, that we are committed to protecting our employees both current and future and to deter violence within our building.

Respectfully,

Brittney Blake

Altru Health System