



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2072		DATE: 2/26/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREW WRENN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA SELEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:54 PM
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I have been a nurse for 10+ years. I've worked trauma icu, PACU and dialysis. I have been hit, kicked, threatened at knife point and medical equipment thrown at me throughout my career. It seems to be happening more often. Something needs to be done and these people need to be held accountable for their actions. I should feel safe at work.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:59 PM	
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I am in Support of the is Bill and protecting Hospital Employees and Staff with a new Offense category and Punishment. Violence Needs to STOP in Hospital Emergency Rooms and Medical Facilities!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ATSUKI MORI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 10:15 PM
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I am submitting my testimony to support HB 2072. I am a registered nurse. Nurses and other healthcare professionals provide care to all patients who seek medical attention. People don't come to the hospital when they are happy. They are already in a stressful situation. And, unfortunately, we cannot make everyone satisfied. Some of them are dissatisfied with the care we provided and express their frustration, which sometimes results in violence. We, nurses, feel proud to serve people who need us in any difficult situation. However, we should not be the target of anger from patients and their family members. I believe there should be measures to protect nurses and other healthcare professionals from workplace violence, thereby reducing nurse turnover.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA G VINDIOLA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:50 PM	

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As a registered nurse and proud American, I vehemently support this bill to better protect healthcare providers.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241
REPRESENTING: BOC HEALTH, MOSAIC, MISSOURI AMBULANCE ASSN		TITLE:
ADDRESS: POB 156		
CITY: JEFF CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID BARNES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-5544
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION		TITLE: RN
ADDRESS: 5870 N HAWK ROAD		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH FIELDS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:43 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: FELICIA D. HAMPTON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-327-0271
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI NURSES ASSOCIATION		TITLE: VP OF ADVOCACY
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1483		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HEIDI FIELDS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 3:07 PM
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There are up to 25 pediatric patients with behavioral and mental health diagnoses admitted each day on inpatient units at our hospital. Many of these children from school age to adolescence are the size of adults and cause horrific harm, both mentally and physically, to our nurses. Some of these children are unable to control their behavior due to autism and other conditions, but many are able to control their behaviors and intentionally punch, hit, bite, spit on nurses and other healthcare workers. Nurses have bruises, lacerations, broken noses, fingers, closed head injuries, bite marks, and post-traumatic stress that keep them from working. These children grow up to be the adults seen at other hospitals. By the time they reach adulthood, many have already caused numerous episodes of WPV. For those patients who know exactly what they are intentionally doing, they must be held accountable for their actions. The legal standard is too high to successfully prosecute adults for their violence against nurses and healthcare workers. I urge you to please vote in support of this bill to protect those who care for these patients.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: HEIDI LUCAS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-616-2740
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 232		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: HLucas@morha.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 9:01 PM
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The Missouri Rural Health Association supports this legislation		



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: J TRENT FORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-409-6812
REPRESENTING: AMBULANCE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRINCIPAL
ADDRESS: P.O.BOX 384		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: jtrent4d@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 9:51 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEANNE ELAINE WIGGINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:48 PM
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As a psychiatric nurse in Missouri for 28 years, I have been assaulted twice. The assaults should not be considered "Just part of the job." Nurses deserve protection.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JILL KLIETHERMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 5:51 PM	
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Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jill Kliethermes, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, and I am a registered nurse practicing in Missouri asking you to support HB 2072.

As a nurse, my primary responsibility is to provide safe, compassionate care to patients during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. However, healthcare workers, including nurses, increasingly face situations where they experience physical aggression while performing their duties.

In my experience, workplace violence in healthcare settings is not uncommon. Nurses often encounter patients or visitors who may be distressed, confused, under the influence of substances, or experiencing behavioral health crises. While we understand the complexity of these situations and approach them with empathy and de-escalation techniques, there are instances where staff sustain physical injuries.

Legislation addressing situations in which individuals knowingly cause physical pain to nurses and other designated victims acknowledges the seriousness of these incidents. Policies that recognize the risks healthcare professionals face can contribute to a safer work environment and reinforce the importance of protecting those who provide essential care to the public. **Workplace violence and injuries are NOT PART OF THE JOB!**

Workplace safety is directly connected to patient safety. When nurses feel secure in their work environment, they are better able to focus on delivering high-quality care. Measures that clarify accountability for intentional acts of harm will help strengthen overall safety standards in healthcare settings.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this issue and your ongoing efforts to support both patients and healthcare professionals across Missouri.

Respectfully,
 Jill Kliethermes, MSN, RN, FNP-BC



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876
REPRESENTING: MO COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 213 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATE SIEKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:42 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: KYNA IMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-651-1185
REPRESENTING: MO NURSES ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1483		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA SLAMP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 6:54 PM	
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Testimony in Support of Missouri House Bill 2072

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Slamp, and I am a pediatric nurse practitioner. I am here today to express my support for Missouri House Bill 2072.

Healthcare providers serve patients in some of the most vulnerable and emotionally charged moments of their lives. We provide care in emergency situations, during crises, and in highly stressful environments. Unfortunately, violence against healthcare workers is an increasing and serious concern. When a healthcare provider is knowingly subjected to physical or emotional pain while performing their professional duties, it is not only an assault on an individual—it is an assault on the integrity of our healthcare system and the safety of all patients present.

HB 2072 appropriately recognizes healthcare providers as “special victims” deserving of enhanced protection under the law. As clinicians, we are expected to remain calm, compassionate, and focused on patient care even when confronted with aggression. However, no provider should be expected to tolerate intentional physical harm as part of their job.

Strengthening penalties—particularly for repeat offenders—sends a clear message that Missouri values and protects its healthcare workforce. Escalating consequences for those with prior assault convictions reflects an understanding that repeated violent behavior poses ongoing risk not only to providers but to patients, families, and other staff members in the healthcare environment.

Mandatory minimum periods of incarceration for individuals who knowingly cause physical pain to a healthcare provider underscore accountability and deterrence. Healthcare settings must remain safe spaces for healing. When violence occurs, it disrupts care delivery, contributes to burnout, drives experienced providers from the workforce, and ultimately impacts access to care for our communities.

Protecting healthcare workers is not about punishment alone; it is about ensuring safe, stable, and accessible care for Missouri’s citizens.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass HB 2072.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Laura Slamp, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC, AE-C**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURIE SPARR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 9:18 PM
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All nurses either experience some type of workplace violence or know another nurse who has experienced work place violence. Nurses go to work to care for our patients, yet we know that the potential for violence every day, on every shift is a reality.

This bill allows law enforcement to do their jobs in keeping nurses safe as they provide care to their patients. This bill also changes the legal standard and will better allow prosecutors to do their job when nurses are faced with workplace violence.

I am asking for a vote in support of HB 2072 to better reflect and manage the reality nurses experience everyday with workplace violence.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDSAY TESSMER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 10:37 AM	

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I have been a nurse since 2011. Early in my career, I worked in a community hospital. I was caring for a patient in her 30s with no mental impairment who was admitted with extremely high blood sugar. The patient asked for ice cream. I let her know that I couldn't give her ice cream because her blood sugar was dangerously high and offered her a list of sugar-free snack options we had available. This woman struck me across the face and proceeded to yell obscenities at me and threaten to harm me again. After I left her room, I notified my charge nurse, who told me that this is part of nursing and I should get used to it. I then notified the house supervisor who reiterated that this is expected in nursing, nurses don't press charges, and that if I didn't want to continue caring for the patient she would report me for patient abandonment. I was then instructed to return to the room, give the patient ice cream, and apologize to her. I was made to apologize to a mentally competent person who physically and verbally assaulted me. I continued to care for the patient for the remaining 10 hours of my shift. In the morning, I reported the event to my floor manager, who told me that patients are expected to display poor behavior and part of our job as nurses is to deal with it. I asked to file a report with the hospital and a police report and was told that neither were options for me. This was not an isolated incident, but a single example of the repeated abuse I suffered in the hospital setting. I left the hospital and went to work in the department of corrections at ERDCC in Bonne Terre (a level 5 correctional center) where I was physically and verbally assaulted less frequently and less severely than I was working on a medical unit in a hospital. The woman I described above struck me hard enough to dislocate my jaw which led chronic jaw pain and headaches that are still present 12 years later. None of the minor assaults I endured at ERDCC led to sustained injury. I was safer working in a maximum security prison than I was working in a hospital.

I believe that the major difference between the frequency of assaults I experienced in the hospital setting compared to the prison was largely impacted by consequences. Assaults on staff were taken very seriously in the prison. In the hospital, assaults are often not acknowledged or prosecuted. HB2072 would aid in the prosecution of assaults against healthcare workers as special victims and would provide increased penalty for repeat offenders. I believe this will aid in correcting a major gap in protecting healthcare workers from assaults. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARCY MARKES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:50 PM
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Please support this bill. Violence at any level should not be tolerated



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARGARET MATA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 6:04 PM
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Nurses are the frontline of healthcare and need protections from planned violence. As a nurse, I've cared for patients who were combative as the result of challenged health. We do our best to show compassion while maintaining safety. I've also seen purposeful acts of assault that were excused because they occurred in a healthcare setting. The latter is inexcusable. Savvy criminals should be able to leverage the environment of an attack to exploit and harm people.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY MARGARET STUCK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 3:19 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MASON CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/25/2026 9:14 AM	
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Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mason Crawford, DNP, MHA, RN, and I am a registered nurse and nursing educator in Missouri with more than 15 years of professional nursing experience, including roles as a bedside nurse, nurse manager, and performance improvement professional. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of HB 2072 and its efforts to empower healthcare providers to pursue legal action in response to workplace violence.

Workplace violence in healthcare is a pervasive and escalating problem that directly affects workforce stability, staff well-being, and patient care environments. During my time as a nurse manager, I witnessed repeated incidents of staff being threatened, verbally abused, kicked, struck, and otherwise harmed while performing their duties. These events were not rare, nor were they confined to a single unit or patient population; they represented an ongoing occupational risk faced by healthcare workers across settings.

Equally concerning was the sense among staff that they had limited options following these incidents. While reporting mechanisms existed, many nurses expressed frustration that meaningful accountability or protective measures were often lacking. Over time, this contributed to moral distress, burnout, and ultimately decisions to leave bedside roles or the nursing profession altogether. I personally supported and counseled nurses through these decisions, observing how concerns about personal safety became a determining factor in career trajectory.

HB 2072 represents an important policy response to this reality. By strengthening and clarifying the ability of healthcare providers to pursue legal recourse when workplace violence occurs, the bill reinforces that violence against healthcare workers is unacceptable and should not be normalized as part of the profession. This legislation supports a culture of safety, encourages reporting, and signals institutional and societal commitment to protecting those who deliver care.

The implications extend beyond individual safety. Missouri, like many states, continues to experience healthcare workforce challenges. Retention of experienced clinicians is essential to maintaining quality care, mentoring new graduates, and ensuring system capacity. Policies that address workplace violence and support worker protection are therefore also policies that support healthcare access and system sustainability.

Healthcare professionals consistently demonstrate commitment to caring for patients during

vulnerable and often stressful circumstances. That commitment should not require acceptance of personal harm as an occupational expectation. HB 2072 helps establish appropriate protections and affirms the value of healthcare workers within Missouri's communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 2072.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2072		DATE: 2/26/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MEGAN POHLMANN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 7:53 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill. My name is Megan Pohlmann, and I am a nurse of 17 years from rural Gasconade County. I would like to thank those who have supported this initiative to bring a greater level of safety to myself and fellow nurses who are at great risk of assault every day. It has been a long time coming. I have left a patient's room with scratches- blood draining down my arms from a patient who I needed to give an injection to. I have been kicked in the belly for attempting to draw blood from a patient's IV while the physician who ordered the test stood in the doorway and watched it happen. I received no acknowledgement afterwards. These are only two of the examples coming to mind, but the reality is I don't remember most of the times I've been hurt, because I have faced violence while at work every shift, something that has gotten exponentially worse in recent years. I have seen countless nurses (my coworkers and friends) be injured one after another, sometimes lining up outside of occupational health- and later being asked by their management "what could you have done differently?" The record I'm aware of from one 12-hour shift alone was 29 nurses. This is not right. This is not sustainable. My husband deserves to not worry if I'll be assaulted when I go to work. My kids deserve to know their mother will return home the same as when she left- that her safety (and theirs) is a priority in this state. And I deserve to know that if someone that I am trying to help puts me in the hospital, someone besides my family will care enough to hold them accountable. If I was jumped in the park in my Nikes, this would certainly be the case- why is it different when I'm in scrubs at your bedside?

Something must be done to hold people and institutions accountable for the risk that we face when we provide care. Thank you for your time.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NELDA GODFREY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:22 PM	

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please, please consider passing this bill. we nurses need protections. patients need nurses who want to be in healthcare facilities and who are not afraid of being injured. please!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL BAUER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-691-5707	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 113 MADISON ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2072		DATE: 2/26/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SEAN C PRIDGEON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 2:15 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Many workplace violence offenders are not prosecuted due to the current language of the law. This bill helps fix that. It will not solve all workplace violence issues, but it is a step in the right direction to support health care workers. In 2024, the Joint Commission reported that health care workers were exposed to verbal aggression 2 times in 20 patient days and physical aggression .85 times per 20 patient days. In Missouri, the Missouri Hospital Association reported in 2023 that 65 hospitals throughout the state had 7762 workplace violence incidents. That is an average of 21.3 a day. I employ you to support this bill to help keep health care workers safe from aggression and violence.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SONYA MCMAHON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 1:11 PM
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I a RN for 17 years and we should be protected against workplace violence. We are there to take care of our patients and should not have to worry about being assaulted.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TIFFANY NASH-MOREFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/24/2026 5:41 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My name is Tiffany Nash-Morefield, and I am a healthcare provider in the State of Missouri. I am writing in strong support of HB 2072 regarding the offense of Assault in the Fourth Degree.

I come before you not only as a professional, but as a victim of workplace violence—multiple times.

Throughout my healthcare career, I have experienced both verbal and physical assaults while simply doing my job. I have been threatened, screamed at, physically intimidated, and physically harmed. These incidents did not occur in isolated or rare circumstances; they are part of an increasingly common pattern in healthcare environments. Healthcare workers are expected to absorb abuse as “part of the job.” It is not.

When I reported these incidents, and charges were pressed, nothing meaningful resulted. No accountability. No justice. No protection moving forward. The message that is sent to victims is clear: your safety is secondary.

Healthcare providers dedicate their lives to caring for others during their most vulnerable moments. We serve patients and families in crisis, often under stressful and emotionally charged conditions. At the same time, we understand the pressures that individuals face, that reality does not excuse violence. No professional should be assaulted for providing care.

HB 2072 represents more than a statutory clarification. It represents recognition. Recognition that assault—whether verbal threats that create fear of imminent harm or physical acts of aggression—has real consequences. Recognition that professionals, including healthcare workers, deserve a safe workplace. Recognition that accountability matters.

Workplace violence in healthcare has reached alarming levels nationwide. When laws fail to produce meaningful consequences, perpetrators are emboldened, and victims are discouraged from reporting. This perpetuates a cycle of silence and harm.

I am tired of not being heard. I am tired of watching colleagues suffer similar experiences and feeling that reporting does not matter. Strengthening and clearly enforcing Assault in the Fourth Degree protections sends a powerful message that Missouri values the safety of those who serve its communities.

Passing HB 2072 would:

Reinforce that assaultive behavior in professional settings will not be minimized.

Support victims in feeling confident that reporting incidents will lead to appropriate action.

Deter future acts of workplace violence.

Affirm that healthcare workers and other professionals deserve protection under the law.

This legislation is not about punishment alone. It is about prevention, accountability, and dignity.

I respectfully urge this committee to support HB 2072 and stand with victims of workplace violence across Missouri.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VICKI K JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 3:57 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. Please support HB 2072. People who help other people should be protected from harm.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:32 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am in strong opposition to House Bill 2072. While presented as a measure to protect vulnerable people, this legislation is a misguided expansion of a failed punitive system that will not make our communities safer.

The bill creates a new offense for knowingly causing physical pain to a "special victim." The definition of "special victim" is revealing. It includes elderly people and people with disabilities, but it also broadly covers law enforcement officers, corrections officers, probation officers, utility workers, and cable workers. Folding these groups together into one enhanced penalty structure is a mistake. It conflates the need to protect vulnerable populations with a desire to impose harsher sentences for anyone who resists or comes into conflict with authority figures, including police.

The core problem with this bill is its reliance on mandatory minimum sentences. Section 4 requires at least six months of incarceration before a person is even eligible for probation or parole. These rigid sentences strip judges of their ability to consider the specific circumstances of a case. A person in crisis who causes pain to a transit employee would be subject to the same mandatory jail time as someone committing a premeditated act of violence. This one-size-fits-all approach ignores the complex realities of human conflict and mental health.

We must ask what actually creates safety. Protecting vulnerable people requires investment in support services, accessible reporting mechanisms, and community-based care. Protecting workers requires safe working conditions and de-escalation training. This bill offers only the illusion of safety by promising harsh punishment after the fact. It does nothing to prevent harm from occurring in the first place.

This legislation also deepens the state's overreliance on incarceration. By elevating misdemeanors to felonies based on prior municipal ordinance violations, it ensures that minor infractions can lead to a lifetime of consequences, including barriers to employment and housing. This destabilizes communities and creates a permanent underclass, which is the opposite of public safety.

I urge you to reject this bill. True safety comes from addressing the root causes of harm, not from expanding a broken system of punishment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:31 PM	

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 7:16 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

HB 2072 expands fourth-degree assault to criminalize “knowingly causing physical pain to a special victim,” then escalates penalties to felony levels with mandatory incarceration and no eligibility for probation or parole. As drafted, it is legally unstable, overbroad, and structurally excessive.

1) Overbroad and Subjective Standard

The bill criminalizes “knowingly causing physical pain” without defining a threshold of harm. “Physical pain” is an inherently subjective experience. The statute does not require injury, medical evidence, or severity. That ambiguity invites inconsistent enforcement and elevates minor altercations into felony exposure.

Criminal statutes must be precise. This language is elastic.

2) Redundant and Unnecessary Expansion

Missouri law already criminalizes:

Causing physical injury

Recklessly creating risk of serious injury

Offensive physical contact

Assault against “special victims” with enhanced penalties in other sections

HB 2072 does not fill a gap; it layers a new pathway to felony prosecution based solely on prior assault history and a loosely defined “physical pain” element.

3) Disproportionate Felony Escalation

Under this bill:

A prior assault conviction (including municipal ordinance violations) converts a misdemeanor into a Class E felony.

Two prior convictions elevate the offense to a Class D felony.

Mandatory incarceration applies.

No fine-only sentence is permitted.

No probation or parole eligibility until a minimum term is served.

This structure converts low-level contact cases into mandatory felony incarceration without requiring serious bodily injury.

Escalation should correlate to severity of harm.

This bill escalates based on status and history rather than objective injury.

4) Mandatory Minimums Without Judicial Discretion

The bill prohibits sentencing flexibility and imposes minimum incarceration terms.

Mandatory minimum provisions remove judicial discretion to evaluate context, proportionality, and mitigating circumstances.

Rigid sentencing schemes increase incarceration costs and reduce case resolution flexibility without clear public safety justification.

5) Vagueness and Constitutional Risk

Criminal statutes that hinge on undefined subjective standards such as “physical pain” risk void-for-vagueness challenges. When felony exposure and mandatory incarceration are attached to such language, constitutional scrutiny intensifies.

Bottom Line

HB 2072 broadens assault liability using imprecise language, escalates penalties to felony levels without requiring serious injury, and mandates incarceration while stripping judicial discretion.

It is an expansion of criminal liability that is disproportionate, redundant, and legally vulnerable.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE OPPERMAN, PMHNP		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/23/2026 5:54 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

HB 2072 does not delineate “health Care” workers under the “special Victim” definitions. Only Emergency personnel. Hospitals, Mental Health facilities, health care offices are not included by this wording. Medical facilities DO NOT RESPECT/SUPPORT STAFF Filing charges against patients or families who have assaulted them.

“ In Missouri, a special victim” is legally defined under RSMo Section 565.002 as specific individuals—typically law enforcement, emergency personnel, probation/parole officers, elderly, disabled, or vulnerable persons—assaulted during their duties or due to their status”