



**SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE**

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**Worker Protections Are at the Heart of Legislation Passed in the Oregon Senate Today**

*Bill makes assault a more serious offense when victims are doing their jobs and defendants have prior convictions for occupational assaults*

**SALEM, OR** – Workers in Oregon deserve to carry out their jobs without physical harm, and certainly without suffering assaults. A bill passed in the Oregon Senate today makes assault in the fourth degree a more serious crime when the victim is assaulted while performing their job duties and the defendant has assaulted others while at work or because of a victim's occupation.

Fourth degree assault in Oregon law is intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing physical injury to another; causing physical injury with criminal negligence with a deadly weapon; or causing physical injury with criminal negligence through using a motor vehicle in certain situations.

"No one deserves violence in the workplace," said **Oregon Senate Judiciary Chair Floyd Prozanski (D – Eugene)**, who introduced the legislation, Senate Bill 170. "This bill strengthens the penalties on people who commit workplace violence repeatedly.

The measure elevates these assaults from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony.

The bill passed in a unanimous vote and now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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