

Senate Judiciary

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HB25-1290 Transit Worker Assault & Funding for Training

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Rhonnie Champeno For ATU Local1001	<p>Members of the Senate committee,</p> <p>My name is Rhonnie Champeno, and I've been a bus operator for 18 years. I'm also a proud member of the Amalgamated Transit Union. I'm here to ask for your support of House Bill 25-1290 because it will make transit safer for workers like me and the passengers we serve.</p> <p>One day, while driving my route, I encountered a passenger who seemed agitated and erratic, likely under the influence of substances. At first, they were shouting, but the situation quickly escalated. Before I could fully process what was happening, they became physically aggressive and attacked me. That experience stays with me, and I know I'm not alone—many of my colleagues have faced similar situations.</p> <p>This legislation would help by creating stronger penalties for assaults on transit workers and ensuring transit police have the training they need to handle these situations. These changes will protect operators and make passengers feel safer too.</p> <p>Public transportation connects people to jobs, schools, and essential services. But without safety, the system can't function properly. When operators feel secure, we can focus on doing our jobs well. When passengers feel safe, they're more likely to trust and use public transportation.</p> <p>I urge you to support this important measure.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>