

# OREGON LAW CENTER

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**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 3521**  
**House Committee on Rules**  
**May 8, 2013**

Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, I submit this written testimony regarding HB 3521, which proposes that voter registration agencies (such as the DMV) would provide information, including address information, to the Secretary of State for purposes of registering voters. I apologize that I cannot be at the hearing this afternoon due to a prior obligation in Eugene.

I understand that some questions arose in prior hearings regarding the impact that automatic voter registration would have on survivors of domestic violence. Upon review, we are comfortable that this proposal would be implemented in a way that would not negatively impact survivor safety. As you may know, OLC is a statewide legal aid program providing free civil legal assistance to low-income Oregonians in all 36 counties through offices located in 17 different communities. Legal aid services are limited to critical legal needs — food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance and physical safety. Over 40% of our cases are family law matters, almost all of which involve domestic violence or child abuse. We often assist clients in formulating safety plans and managing access to information that could be used to locate them.

We work closely with the Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) (ORS 192.820 et seq) and with the general Non-Disclosure protections under ORS 192.445, and are confident that these statutes prohibit the disclosure of residential address, telephone, and email address information of qualifying individuals. If a victim of domestic violence is a participant in the ACP program, ORS 192.844 prohibits the disclosure of locate information by a public body. Even if a victim is not a participant in the ACP, he or she can still access the non-disclosure protection offered by ORS 192.445, which prohibits the disclosure of address, telephone, and email information when a person or a member of the person's household has requested non-disclosure along with evidence that he or she is a victim of domestic or other physical abuse. These specific statutes would control and govern any agency's obligation to maintain confidentiality of information, and would prohibit the DMV from sharing that information.

I have spoken with the Secretary of State's office, and am confident that individuals applying for licenses at DMV would receive robust notice of the new voter registration rules before completing their licenses, and would receive information about how to apply for protection under chapter 192 for qualifying individuals. Our office, and domestic violence advocates, would participate in rulemaking discussions on this topic and ensure that notice was adequate and accessible. In many ways, this bill provides an opportunity to work collaboratively on ensuring that victims get better notice than they have today of the availability of ACP and Chapter 192 non-disclosure protections, which would be beneficial to all victims seeking safety protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, and please let me know if I can answer any further questions.

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