



February 18th, 2021

House Subcommittee on Civil Law
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of [HB 2459](#)

Chair Power, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the House Subcommittee on Civil Law,

The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,415 members and supporters statewide. We thank you for the opportunity to share our support for House Bill 2459, which would prohibit recording of video conferences without informing those in the conversation. We'd also like to extend our thanks to Rep Nathanson for bringing forward a bill to help protect the right to privacy in our ever-more-digital world.

Over the last year, video conferencing has become an everyday occurrence for many Oregonians-- work meetings, virtual classrooms, telehealth visits, legislative committee meetings, and even "zoom happy hours". As the pandemic has kept us physically apart, video conferencing has been the way that most people have held conversations that usually would take place face-to-face.

We believe that everyone should be afforded the same privacy protections currently in place for face-to-face conversations, while on a video call. HB 2459 includes in the definition of "conversation" communication in video conferences to prohibit the recording of the conversation without first informing participants. As we continue to learn to navigate these digital communications and platforms, we believe this language will provide both the privacy and transparency protections necessary.

Page 2, section 6 of the bill also clarifies that public meetings, classes, or a meeting where "others involved knew or reasonably should have known that the recording was being made" are exempted. While we are in full support of the changes outlined in HB 2459, we welcome a future conversation around other exemptions outlined in ORS 165.540 that infringe on privacy rights.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 2459.