

Submitter: Floyd Prozanski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4144

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the Committee:

Please accept this written testimony in support of the Election Worker Safety Bill, HB 4144-A. This bill comes to you with strong bi-partisan support from the House Chamber. The Election Worker Safety Bill does two simple things but sends a strong message to election our workers:

- It provides an exemption to the residence addresses of state and local elections workers can be exempt from public disclosure in voter registration records.
- And it creates a penalty structure for those harass an election worker while they are performing their duties or in response to a decision they made while at work.

The protection of our election workers is a nonpartisan issue. That's why the Oregon Association of County Clerks are in support of the bill. As we have seen since the 2020 elections, there's been an unprecedented rise in threats against local election officials around the country and right here in Oregon. This also coincides with an increase in false information that began during the last presidential election. The spread of false information and threats against our election workers has had real world consequences.

The original bill created a new C felony charge under aggravated harassment. Based on feedback the Secretary of State received, this has now been changed. If someone is found to harassed or threaten an election worker, under the amended bill, this person could receive an A misdemeanor. I believe this is the right place to start and I want to thank Secretary Fagan for making this adjustment. This is first step in the right direction.

I urge your support of HB 4144-A, the Election Worker Safety Bill. Thank you.

Sen Floyd Prozanski