

**ANDREA VALDERRAMA**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**HD 47**

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## **House of Representatives**

February 28, 2022

Senator Wagner, Chair  
*Senate Committee on Rules*

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Valderrama, and I am the Representative for House District 47 which covers outer East Portland. I am writing in strong support of HB 4144.

As a member of the legislative assembly, I believe we are responsible for upholding our democracy and to oversee secure, accessible, and trustworthy elections. Secretary Fagan has made this her mission by working to build trust, just like me, between the People of Oregon and it's government. I am very grateful to the Secretary for the invitation to partner with her in passing HB 4144, the Election Worker Protection Bill.

Oregon House District 47 is in Outer East Portland, which sits on the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas Bands of the Chinook and many other tribes who made their home along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Tribes from this ancestral territory are now part of the Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Warm Springs sovereign nations.

Over the past year, election officials across the country and right here in Oregon have come under attack through increased harassment and threats while also being blamed for election outcomes that some politicians and voters did not like.

HB 4144-A will provide safety measures for election workers across the State of Oregon. The bill will do two things: 1) Create penalties for people who threaten or harass elections workers, which will be classified as a Misdemeanor A, and 2) Exempt the private information, like home addresses, of election workers from voting records.

Local election officials work at the heart of our democracy. They are primarily the ones who interact directly with voters about how to register to vote, how to cast a vote, how to change their registration information, whether their vote counted, the accuracy of the election results, and everything in between. As we head into the 2022 election season, we must do all we can to protect election workers against physical harm fueled by misinformation and attacks on our democracy. I urge you to join me in support of this important bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrea Valderrama', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andrea Valderrama