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To: House Committee on Judiciary  
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist  
Re: House Bill 3035-1  
Date: February 13, 2023

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, members of the committee:

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 3035-1.

Oregon school districts and education service districts are designed as non-partisan entities of local government. They are created by statute, and act in many ways as a local public trust. Service on a school district or ESD board requires election or appointment. It is not a paid position. And these positions often have a high profile locally.

Recently, school board elections and school board service have become more political and contentious than any time before. This is true locally and nationally. There is [more money](#) in [school board races](#) than previous election cycles. And sitting school board members face [increasingly common threats](#) of violence, harm, and intimidation. This is true [nationally](#), and [locally](#) in Oregon. And anecdotal feedback from members of the [Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus](#) indicates school board members of color are often the targets of intimidation when intimidation is directed towards a member of a board.

House Bill 3035-1 would create the crime of threatening a mass injury event. This crime could occur, among other circumstances, when there is a credible threat made to two or more people in a school context. Passage of this bill would give law enforcement a powerful tool to intervene to stop potential harm directed at a school after a credible threat has been made.

It is unfortunate that this bill even need be considered. However, threats to school board members are more prolific than ever, and the potential for harm is correspondingly more impactful than ever.

Please remember threats to school board members as you consider your support for HB 3035-1.