

To: Chair Dacia Grayber  
Vice-Chair Thuy Tran  
Vice-Chair Rick Lewis  
Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management,  
General Government, and Veterans

From: City Councilors and Mayors of Oregon Cities

Date: February 13, 2023

Subject: Supporting HB 2806

We the undersigned are elected officials from across Oregon who support the passage of House Bill 2806.

The bill provides authorization for public bodies to conduct executive sessions to discuss the physical safety of elected officials, public body staff, and public facilities. The bill would also authorize executive sessions on the topic of cybersecurity.

HB 2806 would allow local governing bodies to create and be briefed on safety plans without making those documents publicly available. This would prevent those who would wish harm upon public officials from having access to these plans and discussions. Mayors, councilors, school board members, and members of other local boards and commissions should have the ability to hear about vulnerabilities in their organization's physical and digital infrastructure without revealing those vulnerabilities to those with malicious intent.

A study commissioned by the National League of Cities (NLC) states that 81% of surveyed local public officials reported harassment, threats, and violence due to their service at the local level and 87% say the level of harassment is rising.<sup>1</sup> Cities need to adapt to this increasing threat. The NLC report urges cities to "develop emergency procedures and improve intervention training for security officers in case a violent incident occurs".<sup>1</sup>

This bill has bipartisan sponsorship, the support of the League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties, and a broad swath of support from elected officials. Please see the second page for just some of the bill's supporters.

Please advance the bill to the house floor and vote for passage.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nlc.org/resource/on-the-frontlines-of-todays-cities-trauma-challenges-and-solutions/>

## Signatories

Marilyn Smith  
City Councilor  
Albany

Heidi Prokop  
City Councilor  
Estacada

Melanie Kebler  
Mayor  
Bend

David Emami  
City Councilor  
Happy Valley

Charles Maughan  
Mayor  
Corvallis

Anthony Martin  
City Councilor  
Hillsboro

Gabe Shepherd  
City Councilor  
Corvallis

Cat Zwicker  
City Councilor  
Redmond

Bridget Brooks  
City Councilor  
Tualatin