



TO: Oregon House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Todd Addams, Interim Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon
DATE: 3/20/2023
RE: Support for HB 3443

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and committee members,

I'm writing on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon to urge you to advance House Bill 3443. As the state's longest-serving advocacy organization for the LGBTQ2SIA+ community, Basic Rights Oregon recognizes the need for our state to have a robust system for reporting, responding to, and documenting bias crimes and incidents.

LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians are at increased risk of experiencing bias crimes and incidents as the result of our real or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation, according to data collected by the Oregon Department of Justice. That risk increases significantly for LGBTQ2SIA+ people of color. It's crucial that we give the victims the tools and support they need to report their experiences without losing housing or employment, and feel safer moving forward.

Senate Bill 577, passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2019, goes a long way toward supporting victims, and tracking hate in our state. Now, HB 3443 gives us the opportunity to expand on this work.

Unfortunately, bias crimes often happen at or near work or home, and victims need to seek relief from these environments. This bill allows victims to take leave from work and break a housing lease without experiencing penalties. HB 3443 will also protect victims' privacy when reporting crimes and incidents—a necessary step to ensure everyone feels safe coming forward.

No Oregonian should face violence or harassment due being LGBTQ2SIA+, or because of their race, color or religion. These steps, among other provisions in HB 3443, won't erase hate in Oregon. But they will provide more transparency around bias crimes our vulnerable populations experience, and extend additional protections to these victims. These building blocks are necessary to building a more just, inclusive Oregon.

We hope you will vote YES to advance HB 3443.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "TA" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Todd Addams, Interim Executive Director, Basic Rights Oregon