



May 2, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Dani Ledezma and I serve as the Senior Advisor for Racial Equity and Social Justice at Portland Public Schools. I write in support of HB 3443, which will update Oregon's bias crime and incident statutes.

Since 2016, our community in Portland has seen an uptick in bias crimes. Sadly, some PPS campuses have experienced anonymous acts of vandalism and hate speech that have deeply shattered these school communities.

We must combat this rising tide of hate as a school district, city, and state. HB 3443 is an important step in supporting victims of hate crimes in several ways by: ensuring confidentiality of reports to DOJ's hate crimes hotline; expanding eligibility for DOJ's Address Confidentiality Program to include victims of bias crimes and incidents; directing DOJ to deliver a training program to provide services to bias crime victims.

To address bias crimes on our campuses, PPS developed hate response [protocols](#) drawing from the work of Learning for Justice and Western States Center. In 2021 with the passage of the All Students Belong bill, the State Board of Education required every school district to adopt policies banning hate symbols such as the confederate flag, swastikas and the noose. All of this has laid the groundwork so that our community can robustly respond to acts of hate speech.

We still have work to do to address hate crime in the state. On behalf of PPS, I support HB 3443 and encourage the Oregon legislature to continue revising its bias crime statutes to enable local law enforcement to investigate hate speech acts.

Sincerely,

Dani Ledezma