



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan,  
and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director  
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: Support for HB 4156 – Stalking Modernization

This testimony is presented in support of HB 4156, which modernizes Oregon’s stalking statutes.

Oregon’s stalking statutes were enacted before many developments in technology that have allowed stalking to occur in new ways, enabling perpetrators to endanger their victims using methods that have fallen outside our statutes in recent years.

Through our work with victims and survivors at the Department of Justice, we have observed many of the harmful new ways technology is being used to stalk and cause harm. For example, location sharing on electronic devices can have handy and pro-safety daily uses, yet it can be used to perpetrate harm in a stalking context.

Doxing has also become a tool of abusers in recent years, using the anonymity of the internet to encourage groups of people to intimidate, harass, humiliate, injure, or harm their victim on their behalf. In this realm, hate-raiding, is a methodology used on gaming platforms, including Discord, where abusers dox a victim’s online handle(s), and then the anonymous internet “gangs up” on victims and fills their platforms with threats.

The law needs to be updated to take those technology changes into account. To do this, HB 4156 expands the definition of “contact” to include identity theft, illegal posting of intimate images, use of GPS devices to track a victim’s location, and doxing.

In the context stalking and abuse, we also believe that it is crucial that out-of-state, foreign and tribal convictions be accounted for in our system and given full faith and credit. Cross-jurisdictional accountability is crucial for protecting those who are harmed by stalking and abuse. HB 4156 makes important changes in this area by giving out-of-state convictions and protective orders the same effect as Oregon convictions and orders with respect to elevating stalking to a felony. This closes

a gap in the existing statute that creates room for absurd results based on the arbitrary circumstance of where a stalkers' other harmful behavior has taken place.

We were grateful for the opportunity to participate in a work group convened by Representative Mannix to ensure that this bill was well-crafted, and we thank the representative for his leadership and collaboration on this important issue.

We urge your support of HB 4156.