

Submitter: Matthew Smith

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital  
Construction

Measure: HB4156

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee, thank you for your service to our great state, and for the opportunity to share this testimony with you.

My testimony is already on record from the prior Judiciary Committee hearing. Today I am writing to respond to the written testimony submitted by Mr. Thomas Busse on 03/05/2024. Mr. Busse is inaccurately assessing House Bill 4156.

First, we point out that legitimate journalists are not distributing nude images of citizens without consent. Nor are legitimate journalists unlawfully using GPS trackers. Nor have most legitimate journalists been convicted of prior stalking.

We recommend Mr. Busse take the time to read amendment -03 to ensure his comments relate to the current bill. We believe amendment -03 adequately addresses his concerns.

Second, in his quoting of clause (o) [page 2, line 8], Mr. Busse again is misrepresenting the bill. There is nothing in this bill that prohibits a citizen from using their own cell phone to record officers. That clause simply prohibits one citizen unlawfully interfering with the communications of another person.

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To close, this bill in no way prohibits first amendment rights, or prevents journalists from investigating. Legitimate journalists are not distributing non-consensual images, hacking private accounts, or crawling under cars to attach GPS trackers.

In drafting this legislation, we went to great lengths to avoid the exact issues that Mr. Busse brings up. The crimes Mr. Busse is critiquing are already crimes in Oregon. We are merely attaching them to the anti-stalking code in order to update Oregon's painfully outdated language.

Thank you.