



## VANESSA CORNWALL

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Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
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DATE: February 11, 2025  
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
RE: SB 473, relating to Crime

Dear Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County strongly supports SB 473 which creates the crime of threatening a public official. This critical piece of legislation recognizes the need to ensure the safety of those who serve our communities.

Public officials play a vital role in democracy and providing essential services, and in recent years, there has been a troubling rise in threats against them. Such actions, often aimed at influencing policy decisions or discouraging public service, put individuals and their families at risk while also undermining the integrity of our democratic institutions.

SB 473 recognizes the urgency by making the first offense a Class A misdemeanor and repeat offenses a Class C Felony, which ensures accountability. Protecting public officials is a fundamental matter of public safety and governance.

Lane County supports the passage to take a firm stand against threats that seek to undermine our institutions and the dedicated individuals who serve in them.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER