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Corvallis, Oregon
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Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 224

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support Senate Bill 224, which prevents the Secretary of State from publishing the residence addresses of individuals affiliated with a candidate's principal campaign committee. This bill is a step to ensure the safety of candidates, campaign staff, and their families.

As an elected official, I have personally faced threats where public accessibility of my home address exacerbated the concerning nature of such threats. In 2021, a few days after my re-election to retain my seat in the Corvallis School Board, A man appeared over my friend's fence, holding my campaign brochure, making threats against me. On the same day, one of my campaign signs was used as a shooting target, sending a clear message of intimidation. More recently, I received anonymous messages containing hate speech and death threats. I remain committed to being accessible to constituents and members of the community. While these threats are concerning, I remain doing my best to focus on serving my community rather than being distracted by these incidents. It would help to have the reassurance that these individuals will not have easy access to my home address because of my public service. I recently navigated taking measures to ensure that, and it's a cumbersome and imperfect process.

Many elected officials and candidates, especially those from historically and presently marginalized communities, have experienced similar threats. Some have had to move or take additional security measures to protect their families. While I support candidates providing their residence for verification, public disclosure of home addresses of public servants, in my view, adds a chilling effect to the ability of many Oregonians to step into public service and feel that their homes are safe from threats that some of my colleagues and I have faced during our public service.

SB 224 balances transparency with security. It ensures that public officials remain accessible while protecting them from potential harm. Passing this bill is a step toward safer and more inclusive participation in democracy. I urge your support for SB 224 to help protect those who serve the public.

This is a step in the right direction; however, there are several systems where candidates' and public officials' addresses continue to be made public. Examining these systems and identifying further protections will be an essential follow-up step to ensure comprehensive safety measures. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, Ph.D.
Director - position #1, Corvallis Board of Education

This testimony was developed using an AI-based writing tool, which assisted in drafting and refining the content based on my input to ensure clarity and completeness.