

Submitter: Chad Kernutt
On Behalf Of: Concerned Communities
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2640

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I am in opposition to HB-2640 which was crafted at the request of the Oregon criminal defense lawyers association to drop a bevy of crimes down to violations. This bill might as well be called the criminal protection and relief from accountability act or to put it into terms a 7-year-old could understand, the get out of jail free bill. A class A violation in Oregon is the equivalent to a traffic violation. This enables criminals to commit crimes without serious consequences putting Oregonians and law enforcement at greater risk. It appears the lawyers introducing this bill think these crimes aren't worth their time, but haven't stopped to consider that the consequences of this bill will lead to more victims, increasing actions by the criminal element in society, and ultimately a bigger workload for these very lawyers due to emboldened criminals. The democrats and governor making up a one party control system in Oregon have verbally committed to their constituents that they will prioritize safety for Oregonians and a reduction of crime in our communities. Changing crimes to violations does not achieve this. This bill crafted by Democrat politicians does the exact opposite of this. If passed, this bill would render the Democrat legislature hypocrites and deceivers and their word and commitments worthless. Let's take a look at the crimes that would be lowered to violations in this bill.

The Act makes changes to two harassment crimes and repeals the manner of committing the crime of harassment. HB-2640 requires that for a manner of committing the crime of aggravated harassment, the criminal must create a risk of spreading communicable disease to the victim through their action. So a criminal would not be committing aggravated harassment if they spit on civilians and law enforcement, and throw poop, pee, semen, or blood at you, as long as they are not carrying a disease. I'm a correctional officer who has had all these body fluids thrown or spat at me and I can tell you right now that this bill would have disastrous effects in the prisons on law enforcement. This bill reduces to Class A violation offenses the crimes of failure to appear in a violation proceeding, failure to appear in the second degree, criminal trespass in the second degree, criminal mischief in the third degree, failure to carry a license or to present a license to a police officer, failure to appear on a criminal citation, theft in the third degree, failure to report as a sex offender, driving while suspended, and failure to perform the duties of a driver when property is damaged. Are Democrats really about to spit in the face of the victims of criminals and turn their backs on them and in turn make more victims? All for the sake of appearing a lawyers association that contributes to their campaigns during election season? I challenge you to do better folks and work at the behest of WE THE

PEOPLE, the law abiding citizens in your communities. Please vote NO on HB-2640.
Thank you

Sincerely,
Chad Kernutt
Albany, Oregon
IN GOD WE TRUST