



## COMMISSIONER HEATHER BUCH, District 5, East Lane

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PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING / 125 EAST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE / EUGENE, OR 97401

DATE: February 25, 2025  
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Heather Buch, Lane County Commissioner, District 5  
RE: SB 939, Relating to Security for Nonprofit Organizations

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

I am honored to support SB 939, which establishes the Oregon Nonprofit Security Grant Program. As a Lane County Commissioner, I have seen the essential role that nonprofit organizations play in supporting our communities. These organizations provide critical services, foster inclusion, and ensure the well-being of our most vulnerable populations. However, many of these nonprofits, particularly those serving historically marginalized communities, face increasing security threats.

The rise in bias crimes targeting nonprofits is concerning. Organizations that service religious, cultural, and social justice communities have become frequent targets of intimidation, vandalism, and violence. This legislation provides an essential mechanism for enhancing security infrastructure, ensuring nonprofits can continue their vital work without fear.

Lane County is home to a diverse array of nonprofit organizations that serve individuals from all walks of life, many operating on limited budgets that prioritize direct services. Additionally, much of rural Lane County faces limited resources and extended law enforcement response times. By providing targeted grant funding for security enhancements, this legislation helps ensure that these organizations can implement necessary protections without diverting resources from their core missions, while also contributing to the broader safety and resilience of their communities.

I urge this committee to support SB 939 and recognize the critical importance of nonprofit security in Lane County and across Oregon. Protecting our nonprofits is an investment in the safety, stability, and strength of our communities.

Sincerely,

Heather Buch  
Lane County Commissioner, East Lane

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER