

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 27, 2025

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time this afternoon. For the record, my name is Emerson Levy, and I am the State Representative for House District 53, representing much of central Oregon. I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 939, which directs the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to establish a grant program to enhance security for nonprofit organizations that are at a heightened risk of bias crimes.

Strengthening the integrity of the Oregon Nonprofit Security Grant Program Fund is imperative to protecting the organizations that play such vital roles in our communities, and serve our most vulnerable populations. Acts of violence and intimidation threaten their ability to serve the community, but also the well-being of staff, clients, and volunteers. The grants in this legislation allowing for surveillance systems, better lighting, and security training are vital in ensuring continued operation of these organizations without a constant fear of attack.

The funds are distributed to address our most vulnerable nonprofits, prioritizing organizations based on past incidents and their level of risk. This legislation is an important step in protecting these organizations, the essential services they provide, and preserving the fabric of the communities they support.

I urge your support of this bill. Thank you.

Emerson Levy

State Representative, House District 53