



March 13, 2024

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1124

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Lane Transit District, LTD, serves Eugene, Springfield, and the surrounding areas with fixed route and paratransit service. We provide rides for more than 5 million passengers annually, including 250,000 paratransit service rides with our contractor RideSource, on our 30-fixed bus routes and two EmX Rapid Transit lines.

Like many of my colleagues, LTD has seen an increase in assaults on our operators and an increase in vandalism, trespassing, and other non-violent offenses. In 2024, we had over 190 assaults on our buses and at our facilities. Within the first part of 2025 we have reported 55 assaults and this data does not include the numerous non-violent crimes or violations.

Currently, if an operator is behind the wheel and they notice an issue in their vehicle or at the stop, the rules act as a deterrent to them stopping, or pulling over to deescalate the situation. This is due to the fact that the moment they step out from, behind the wheel, they do not have the same level of protections. Our operators are trained to prevent situations from becoming more severe using deescalating techniques and are faced with the choice of providing safety and security to our community, or themselves.

It is critical for operators, passengers, & community members that we can provide safety at our stations, facilities, buses, & bus stops. Operators are part of the safety solution and if they are deterred from utilizing the de-escalation tools they have been trained to use, our community suffers. This bill remedies that situation and equalizes the protections provided to our operators regardless of where they are currently working.

Thank you for your support of our front-line workers.

Gino Grimaldi
Gino Grimaldi (Mar 13, 2025 11:27 PDT)

Gino Grimaldi
Board President, Lane Transit District



SB 1124 - LTD Written Testimony

Final Audit Report

2025-03-13

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