

Submitter: Raymond Jackson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2851

I am extremely concerned about the implications of this bill. Domestic terrorism is indeed a serious threat to our society, but it does not come in the form of destruction of property by protestors exercising their First Amendment rights. Terrorism in this country is being perpetrated by the far right and the state in the form of killings, disappearings, and repression. We have seen similar legislation used in Georgia to criminalize protestors, even when the intent of the law may have been to respond to the racist assault on a black church by a far right gunman. We have just seen a Palestinian immigrant with legal residency disappeared by ICE, with the President calling for his deportation on the grounds that he opposes US foreign policy. He has committed no crime. This is fascism in action, and if the federal government is choosing a path of crushing dissent, then the Oregon state legislature has an obligation to the people it serves to ramp up protections, not create avenues for further state violence and terror. This bill will expand the state's ability to prosecute protestors. It will not protect us from domestic terrorism. This law should be repealed in its entirety, not given more teeth to tear at the heart of our democracy.