



To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Shannon Blood

Date: 3/19/2025

RE: Support for SB 5526 POP 109 Personnel Safety

Dear Co-Chair Campos and Valderrama and members of the committee,

My name is Shannon Blood, and I work as an SSS1 out of Pendleton. I am writing in support of ODHS SB 5526 POP 109 and asking you to make additional investments that would improve office and worker safety. POP 109 would allocation funds for facilities improvements and security and outreach contracts.

I am a union steward, and I have represented a child welfare worker who was physically attacked during a welfare visit by the father of the child. She was approached from behind and he attempted to take her down. The worker filed an incident report and received no safety support for the worker. There were many other incidents with this particular family, and it took staff 8 months to move management to place the parents on whether they were trespassing. We need more safety protocols in place, immediate aide for workers who experience violence and threats of violence on the job.

While ODHS has innovated to make services more accessible, many Oregonians continue to rely on office setting to access services. The agency is struggling to maintain adequate safe and secure working environments across its statewide operations.

Without the investment described in POP 109, office safety will persist as an issue and increase turnover and workplace complaints. Please write SB 5526 POP 109 into the budget to ensure that workers are safe on the job.

Thank you for your time,

Shannon Blood