

TO: Rep. Jason Kropf, Chair

Rep. Willy Chotzen, Vice Chair Rep. Kim Wallan, Vice Chair

**Members of House Judiciary Committee** 

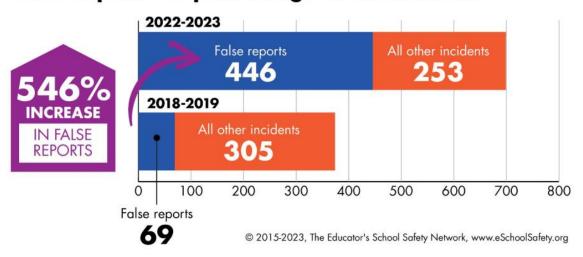
FR: Oregon District Attorneys Association

RE: HB 3935 - Support

April 3, 2025

The Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) appreciates the opportunity to express our support of HB 3635. Of specific concern to us is the staggering increase in the number of false "active shooter" reports targeting K-12 schools. The School Safety network summarized FBI statistics that indicate a 546% increase in the number of false active shooter reports from the year 2018/19 to the year 2022/23. Not only is the FBI estimated cost of \$10,000 per incident shocking, the disruption and risk of injury is too serious to ignore.

## False reports as percentage of all incidents



Swatting poses significant risks to both the victims and law enforcement officers. These hoaxes waste valuable resources, create false panic, and have the potential to lead to

serious injury or even death. Under current law this conduct can only be prosecuted as misdemeanors (Initiating a False Report or Disorderly Conduct) regardless of how much damage is caused or persons injured.

By making this conduct a felony when it results in damage or harm to persons or property, this bill will deter individuals from engaging in this behavior and ensure that those who do will be held responsible both criminally and financially.

This legislation will not only protect potential victims but also support our law enforcement agencies by reducing the number of false alarms they must respond to. This will allow them to focus on genuine emergencies and better serve our community.

We strongly support this bill and urge you to help make Oregon a safer place.