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**To:** House Committee on Judiciary  
**From:** Martha Sonato, Legislative Advocate  
**Re:** Support for SB 1191A  
**Date:** 04/30/2025

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallen and Chotzen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Law Center, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1191A.

SB 1191A offers a clear and straightforward change that protects Oregonians' civil and constitutional rights. This bill makes sure that people, whether legal advocates, community organizers, or concerned bystanders—are not criminally punished for informing others about their rights.

Access to justice is a central goal of the Oregon Law Center. We work to ensure that low-income communities in Oregon have access to high-quality civil legal services.

At its core, SB 1191A supports the idea that knowing your rights is key to being able to use them. Whether during a police stop, a protest, or a court hearing, people must be able to share and learn about their legal rights without fear of being charged with a crime. This is particularly important for marginalized communities—including immigrants, refugees, and people of color, who are often impacted by law enforcement and other public systems.

This bill responds to real concerns. Legal advocates, social workers, and community members often worry that simply explaining someone's rights could be seen as interference or obstruction. This can stop people from helping others when they need it most. SB 1191A clears up that confusion and makes it clear: informing another person of the other person's civil or constitutional rights is not a crime.

SB 1191A helps strengthen Oregon's commitment to justice, transparency, and civil rights.

We urge your support.

Respectfully,  
Martha Sonato, Oregon Law Center

***The Oregon Law Center's mission is to achieve justice for low-income communities in Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services.***