



TO: **Rep. Jason Kropf, Chair**
Rep. Kim Wallan, Vice Chair
Rep. Willy Chotzen, Vice Chair
Members of House Judiciary Committee

FR: **Oregon District Attorneys Association**

RE: **Support HB 4151**

February 9, 2026

The Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) appreciates the opportunity to express our support of House Bill 4151 which proposes enhanced penalties for people who make false reports of threats to law enforcement. Throughout the country, schools, hospitals, businesses, places of worship, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to include U.S. government officials, journalists, celebrities, online gamers, and many others have increasingly been victims of swatting calls and hoax threats. These incidents cause fear and potentially dangerous interactions with law enforcement.

According to a report by the School Safety network summarizing FBI statistics, in the 2022-2023 school year, 63.8% of all violent incidents were false reports of an active shooter within the school (i.e. swatting) while 7.9% of all violent events were actual shootings at a school.

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 the deployment of an enhanced law enforcement response or harm to persons, 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