



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 9, 2026

To: [**Sen Floyd Prozanski, Chair**](#)

[**Senate Committee On Judiciary**](#)

Re: [**SB 1530**](#) – Expands crime of aggravated harassment by threat to public official – **Support**

The League supports SB 1530, which would expand the crime of aggravated harassment to include threats to public officials when the threat would reasonably cause alarm. The crime would be elevated to a Class C felony. The League of Women Voters bases our support on our violence prevention position and our belief that First Amendment rights do not protect imminent threats of unlawful violence against an individual.

Due to the political climate in today's world, the number of incidents of violence and threats of violence against public officials has escalated considerably. For our democracy to work effectively, public officials should be able to do their jobs and live their lives free from threats of intimidation and violence. If laws do not protect them sufficiently, we will soon have very few individuals who are willing to serve in a public capacity.

The League has supported numerous protection and privacy bills, urging for enhanced protections out of concern for the increasingly contentious political climate that has crossed from spirited disagreement, perhaps reckless communications, to documented threats that create reasonable alarm for imminent risk of serious injury or death, including to family members. Fear has become a constant companion of those who serve at all levels of Oregon government—from school board members to state officials.

In 2022, we spoke to protecting elections officials whose families had been threatened at their homes, with graffiti spray painted in an election office's parking lot and alarming letters received. Our [testimony](#) for [HB 4144](#) Enrolled (2022) recommended expanding harassment protection to candidates, lawful protesters, public servants, and volunteers. Several noted needing to protect their families from intimidating visitors. At that time, we felt that the harassment coverage of threats with bodily fluids fell short. In 2025, we supported the protection described in SB 473, as introduced, but the bill was amended to relate to firearms and failed to make it out of committee.

We believe the time has come to better protect those in public office, and we urge your support for SB 1530.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Barbara Klein
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Action Committee Member