



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: February 10, 2026
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations
RE: SB 1516, Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County writes in support of HB 1516 Section 1, addressing threats to public officials. This bill responds to the growing number of credible threats directed at public officials due to their work. These threats increasingly come through electronic and written communications and are intended to intimidate or retaliate against public servants performing their duties.

This bill is carefully scoped. It does not criminalize protest, disagreement, or criticism. It applies only to intentional threats of serious physical injury that would reasonably cause alarm and that are directly connected to a person's role as a public official. Protecting public officials and their families from credible threats is essential to maintaining effective local governments and ensuring qualified individuals are willing to serve their communities.

Regarding the -1 amendment, Lane County respectfully remains neutral. The language raises important policy and implementation considerations that are distinct from the core criminal and pretrial provisions of the base bill. While stakeholders may reasonably differ on the best approach to a restructure, those questions are separate from our support for the underlying provisions of SB 1516.

Lane County supports the passage to take a firm stand against these actions that seek to undermine our institutions and the dedicated individuals who serve in them.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER