

Submitter: Kevin Downing

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1530

SB 1516 and SB 1530 suffer from a common flaw, with a narrow definition of "public official". ORS 244.020 (15) should be the definition applied here. As it stands this bill provides protection to elected officials but fails to extend similar protections against threat of bodily harm to public employees. As if legislators were the only ones to experience threats to harm. In many years of service to the state of Oregon at the Department of Environmental Quality, I received several threats, some of which were deemed serious enough to invite police to public hearings. Please consider extending the protection against threat of harm to the public employees who are directly on the front lines.