

Submitter: CHRISTINA SCHLOEGL
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1516
Submitted by: Christina Schloegl
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Grants Pass, Oregon

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1516 from my perspective as an appointed committee member serving the City of Grants Pass.

Public service at the local level depends on ordinary citizens who are willing to step forward and participate in governance. Appointed committee members, like elected officials, play a direct role in advising policy, reviewing proposals, and contributing to decisions that impact our communities. This work requires thoughtful deliberation and open participation. It cannot function properly when individuals face threats or intimidation because of their service.

SB 1516 provides important clarification and protection by recognizing the seriousness of threats directed at public officials due to their official roles. These protections help ensure that those who serve, whether elected or appointed, can carry out their responsibilities without fear for their personal safety or the safety of their families.

This bill does not restrict lawful disagreement, criticism, or public engagement. Those are essential parts of civic participation. However, credible threats of harm cross a clear line. When threats become a tool to intimidate public servants, it undermines the integrity of public processes and discourages qualified individuals from serving their communities.

At the local level, communities depend heavily on volunteer and appointed service. Ensuring that those individuals are protected from threats helps preserve civic participation and strengthens public trust in government institutions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 1516.

Thank you for your time and consideration.