

Submitter: CHRISTINA SCHLOEGL
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1530

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1530
Submitted by: Christina Schloegl
Appointed Committee Member, City of Grants Pass
Grants Pass, Oregon

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1530 from my perspective as an appointed committee member serving the City of Grants Pass.

At the local level, public service is carried out not only by elected officials but also by appointed citizens who volunteer their time to serve on advisory boards and committees. These roles require thoughtful participation, independent judgment, and a willingness to engage openly on matters that directly affect our community. This work becomes increasingly difficult when public officials and their families are subjected to serious threats because of their service.

SB 1530 closes a critical gap in Oregon law by expanding the crime of aggravated harassment to include serious threats made against public officials and their families because of their official duties. This protection is both necessary and timely. Threats conveyed electronically, in writing, or through other means are often intended to intimidate or influence public decision-making. When individuals feel unsafe simply for fulfilling their civic responsibilities, it undermines both effective governance and public trust.

This bill reinforces a fundamental principle: public service must not come with an expectation of personal danger. By establishing clear consequences for knowingly conveying threats intended to cause alarm, SB 1530 strengthens protections that allow public officials, whether elected or appointed, to carry out their duties without fear or intimidation.

Importantly, SB 1530 does not restrict lawful disagreement, criticism, or public participation. Open dialogue and differing viewpoints are essential to a healthy democracy. This legislation addresses only true threats of serious physical harm, conduct that falls outside protected civic engagement and threatens the safety and stability of our public institutions.

Communities like Grants Pass rely on citizens who are willing to step forward and serve. Ensuring their safety helps preserve civic participation and strengthens the integrity of our democratic processes.

I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 1530.

Thank you for your time and consideration.