

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1516 as I believe additional protections are needed for elected officials. I am a 22 year veteran of the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, in that capacity I served 13 years on the SWAT team and over a decade as a major crimes detective. And despite arresting cartel-affiliated drug dealers, murders, child molesters and other violent criminals, it was only after 6 months as an elected County Commissioner did I feel the need to seek a Stalking Protection Order (SPO) against an individual that I believe intended to hurt me and my family.

After several months, and several thousand dollars in attorney fees, a Circuit Court Judge issued a permanent stalking protection order against the individual. Having a criminal statute to point a District Attorney's office to would be very beneficial in helping to prosecute those that wish to threaten elected officials and their loved ones with physical harm and subject them to a criminal record and potential jail time, rather than just the civil SPO route.

I would suggest amending the language of the bill to include verbal threats, and include "Recklessly" and "with Negligence" - rather than just "Intentionally" - which is a much higher burden of proof. Adopting some of the language that exists in Oregon's civil Stalking Protection Order is a great place to start for any considered amendments to specific "state of mind of the offender" language.

Thank you for your time.