

Submitter: B Tobias  
On Behalf Of: NO confidentiality or disclosure changes  
Committee: Joint Committee On Conduct  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1600

Below are the rules you are tryin to repeal, but they allow for some transparency and guidance by an objective counselor, and not information from LEO, who is anything but objective. This bill needs to be rewritten and be transparent to the respondent before a final determination has been done.

ORS 40.274 has

Purpose: To protect communications made to a counselor, typically in the context of workplace issues or grievances.

Exception: The privilege does not apply if the counselor believes the communication reveals a clear and serious intent by the declarant to commit a crime involving physical injury, sexual abuse, or death.

173.930: At the direction of the Joint Committee on Conduct, the Legislative Equity Officer shall contract with one or more offsite process counselors to perform the duties described in ORS 173.933 (Offsite process counselor duties) or such other duties as are assigned by legislative rule or by the committee.

173.933: An offsite process counselor under contract with the Legislative Equity Officer under ORS 173.930 (Contracting for offsite process counselor) shall be available to receive information from any individual about harassing behavior occurring in the State Capitol or involving legislators, legislative staff, lobbyists or others who are present in the State Capitol or who engage with legislators, legislative staff or lobbyists, whether in the State Capitol or elsewhere.

(2) The offsite process counselor shall provide confidential process counseling to individuals who believe they have experienced or observed harassment... The offsite process counselor may not engage in any investigation following a report or complaint alleging harassment or following any consultation described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

We do not want ANY bills which further isolate legislators or the public from fair treatment and transparency.

No on SB 1600