



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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Testimony in support of HB 3480, April 16, 2013 House Judiciary Committee

Chair Barker, Vice Chairs Garrett and Krieger, and Representatives Brent, Cameron, Hicks, Olson, Tomei, and Williamson:

The Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions are submitting testimony in support of HB 3480 on bias crime on behalf of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions including:

- The Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs,
- The Commission on Black Affairs, and
- The Commission for Women,

Assuring adequate bias crime protections in Oregon is a strategic priority of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions. Each year the Commissioners are contacted by citizens statewide via e-mails, shared articles, calls and other connections on bias related incidents including beatings, intimidation, and other types of violence. These regular connections serve for us as a reminder why this and other legislation aimed at strengthening protections against bias is vitally important for communities of color, women and others groups to lead lives free from fear and threat of violence. Thank you for considering some of these experiences today and taking action.

We believe that HB 3480 contributes to bias protections in key ways:

- It allows bias crime standards for intimidation 1 to pertain to individuals acting alone who cause physical injury based on bias. Currently this standard only pertains to groups of 2 – 3 persons who cause injury. There are many instances when a person is acting alone in a bias crime that deserves the higher standard.
- It requires quarterly and annual reporting by police agencies on bias crime to DOJ. Oregon needs a central location for this data, and policy makers need it better understand barriers to prosecution, causes for underreporting and other issues.
- It builds on civil right of action already in place to allow the AG to work with DA's and individuals to address losses to individuals due to bias crime.

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions urge you to positively consider HB 3480 with your vote.

Stephen Ying, Chair, OCAPIA

Isaac Dixon, Chair, OCBA

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair, OCFW

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
Stephen Ying, Chair
Mari Watanabe, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder
Rep. Gene Whisnant

OR Commission on Black Affairs
Isaac E. Dixon, Chair
James Morris, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Lew Frederick

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Andrea Cano, Chair
Gilbert P. Carrasco, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Chris Harker

OR Commission for Women
Stephanie Vardavas, Chair
Jeanne Burch, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Monnes Anderson
Rep. Betty Komp