

Testimony for Public Hearing

Judiciary Committee

April 16, 2013

Dau Tucker

(Street address omitted for protection)

Salem, Oregon 97317

H.B. No. 3480 – Renames crimes of intimidation as bias crimes

Good Afternoon Judiciary Committee Members. My name is Dau Tucker and I am a resident of Salem and a Human Resource Manager for Salem Health. I come before you to today in support of the revisions to House Bill 3480 and to share my personal story.

I moved from North Carolina to Oregon on March 2011 to begin my new position with Salem Health. Since living here, I have experienced 32 incidents of discrimination. I have tried to turn a blind eye to each incident, holding my head up high and moving as if unbothered by such mistreatments in my community. That's right "my community". I embraced this community by volunteering my time to teach Kindergarten kids basketball at the YMCA, serving our homeless population and building homes for habitat for humanity. The same community I serve is the one that has rejected my family.

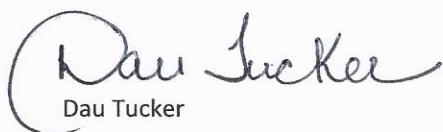
The day that I could no longer close my eyes was on January 21, 2013, Martin Luther King Jr. day. When I reported to work I found a bullet on my desk and the message "Leave Nigger or Die" scrawled on my wall. As of today, the case is still open with no leads pointing to the direction of the person who hates me to his or her very core. This incident has caused my family so much stress. My daughter sleeps with her light on every night in fear that the person who threatened my life will invade our home. My husband cannot sleep peacefully, jumping up to every sound he hears at night. I try my best to go to work every day and stand tall, smile, walking the halls cautiously showing no fear. Unknown to my colleagues I am afraid. I am afraid of not knowing the face of the person who did this and can attack me at any moment once he or she sees that I have not complied with the request as written on my wall.

I am Vietnamese and African American but I have realized since living here all people see is black. Nothing I should ever be ashamed of; however, for the first time in my life I feel inferior, less than, different, a minority. My race or ethnicity should not determine the level of treatment I receive.

I ask that you accept the revisions to House Bill 3480 to take a stronger stance against biased crimes. Help families like mine with the protection needed to live peacefully and not in fear. Let's stand together to accept our differences, embrace the beauty of diversity, and protect our community from biased crimes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Dau Tucker