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**SPEAKER PRO TEM**

**House Bill 2314 – Crimes of Intimidation**

May 8, 2013

Senator Jackie Winters, Chair  
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub Committee on Public Safety  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Madam Chairs and Committee Members,

Thanks you for giving me the opportunity to testify on HB 2314, which expands the classes of protected persons to include those who have been discriminated against based upon their ethnicity and/or their gender (“sex”). Additionally, this bill removes the requirement of “two or more persons acting together” for purposes of classification as intimidation in the first degree – a Class C felony.

Intimidation based upon discriminatory premises has no place in today’s society, particularly when a person’s well-being is placed in danger. HB 2314 recognizes that regardless of the number of persons complicit in the act, the offender’s actions can have harmful effects on the victim and the community of persons they associate with. As such, the requirement of two or more persons no longer has a place in the statutory language, as the group component of intimidation is not the element of the crime the legislature seeks to prevent.

Ethnically and gender-based intimidation are unacceptable practices; a basic tenet of today’s society that we can all embrace. Through the A-Engrossed version of the bill, all Oregonians will have the support of their District Attorney in prosecuting these heinous and pointless crimes; leading to a deterrent effect and eventual dissipation of such actions.

For these reasons, I urge your support of HB 2314.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "AO".

Andy