

## Testimony in support of HB 3467

Chair Prozanski, members of the committee, my name is Clarice Keating and I am here to testify in support of HB 3467.

I am a reporter for the Catholic Sentinel newspaper, the diocesan newspaper for the Catholic Church in Western Oregon. I am also a graduate student in Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government's master's of public administration program. I'm an active volunteer in East Portland's Lents neighborhood. I serve on the neighborhood association board, currently as treasurer and formerly as public safety chair.

One evening in April on my way home from school, I exited a TriMet train and encountered three law enforcement officers investigating a boy for spitting on the ground of the outdoor platform. I was concerned for the boy, who seemed scared, and curious about what was happening, so I asked several questions about what the boy had done and the laws relating to the investigation. My conversation with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office deputy ended abruptly when I asked him for his name and which agency he worked for. He arrested me for interfering with a peace officer.

I spent seven hours in police custody, and have been forced to retain legal counsel. Within hours of my arrest, websites like mugshots.com and whosarrested.com began publishing my mug shot and arrest details. Some even contain inaccurate information, such as one site that claims I am still in police custody. At last count, there were a dozen sites that have published my arrest information, but a new site seems to appear every week. Today, in a Google image search of my name, the first two images are my mug shot.

These sites will always display that I was arrested for a misdemeanor despite that my charge was dropped to a violation the following day, which also means I'm not entitled to a jury and proof beyond a reasonable doubt. To preserve my right, my lawyer had to file a 12-page brief and made a motion to request a jury trial.

An important part of my job as a reporter is interviewing sources. When I call a source and set up an interview, many people likely search for me online to verify that I'm a legitimate reporter. My coursework also requires me to reach out to new people who may look me up before we meet. Now, their first impression could be that I am a criminal.

During the past two years, I have worked full time to pay my way through grad school, in hopes that the degree will enable me to serve my community in a positive way. These blemishes to my online reputation decrease my ability to be a credible advocate. They also may hinder my ability to be considered for jobs, fellowships, grants and other important opportunities.

I have tried to use this unfortunate situation as impetus to educate and empower my community. I have asked the neighborhood association chair to invite a TriMet officer to educate community members on TriMet's lesser-known policies and what to do if they think they have witnessed police misconduct or racial profiling. Unfortunately, I see no positive that can come from these exploitative websites' existence.

As a reporter, I also recognize the importance of protecting access to public records. Fortunately, media were able to easily obtain arrest records for decades before it became common practice for law enforcement agencies to post all arrests online. These websites that republish those arrest details exploit public records for profit and infringe on citizens' right to privacy.