



Date: February 18, 2015

To: House Judiciary Committee, Chair Barker and Members

From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations

RE: *HB 2596 [Upskirting prohibition]*

On behalf of OEA's 42,000 members in Oregon's public schools and community colleges, it is my honor to testify in support of HB 2596, which we requested to close a gap in our laws pertaining to invasions of personal privacy.

What you'll hear from one of our great teachers here today is that a phenomenon exists, called "upskirting", involving the surreptitious recording of images of people's intimate areas using flip phones, and then circulating and sharing the stolen images on social media. This humiliating and invasive behavior is a "thing" out there – some have competitions to see who is able to capture the most such photos or videos and post them on the internet.

Such behavior is devastating, but, as you will see in the newspaper article attached to my testimony, is not illegal conduct in Oregon if the unsuspecting victim is wearing underwear – because the images taken are not specifically "nude" photos. This parsing defies logic. The injustice of having no remedy for this creepy invasion of privacy is something you can remedy. And that's why we are asking you to enact legislation to make both the act of capturing the image and of circulating it a crime.

It's important to note that it's not just our members who have been victimized by upskirting and other, similar behaviors. Our students are also at risk. The bill has been crafted to protect anyone, anywhere from such intentional conduct.

Now, to tell you about her experience is Albany teacher Dana Lovejoy, whose courage in coming forward is truly inspiring. Thank you for considering our request for passage of this bill.