

Dear Rules Committee,

I am a permanency worker at Child Welfare. I am writing in support of HB 3037. *Although I have chosen a profession to serve the citizens of my home state I do not choose to broadcast my personal information to anyone. As a citizen of Oregon I deserve to have my privacy protected just like any other citizen and my profession should not dictate that anyone can have access to my personal cell phone, my address where my family lives, and personal identification information such as my driver's license number. I understand that my name, my job, my workplace, my salary, and my retirement is public and I do not dispute that fact.*

I have a diverse employment background that includes working as a corrections officer in an adult facility and for many years in a Juvenile facility. My husband was a former police officer. I currently work with clients that suffer from mental illness and substance abuse issues. In my professional duties I have had to remove children from their parents and I cannot think of anything worse that could cause hatred type feelings from someone or a reason for someone to want to cause me harm than that fact. I have had a client figure out which vehicle was my personal vehicle in the parking lot at my office and wait next to it for me. This is particularly unnerving as I am often the last one to leave my office at night and as a State worker I am not allowed to carry any type of weapon or anything to be able to protect myself. In fact, it is grounds for termination if I do.

I often have my children and my grandchildren in my home on a weekly basis. My grandchildren are all under the age of 6 years old. I have taken many steps to protect myself and my family. My social media is set to private and only my friends and family I personally know are allowed on it. I have rented a post office box in the next town over from where I live to receive all my mail. I have put my cell phone number on the national do not call list. I have taken every step I can to keep my information private and to protect myself and my family.

Several of my co-workers have taken similar steps to keep their personal information private in order to protect themselves and their families. Some have even refused to hold even a yard sale as they do not want to take the chance a client might show up for it and then know where they live.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and I trust you will do the right thing to help protect all Public employees in their private lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kerri Stepisnik
McMinnville, Oregon