

Dear Rules Committee,

I am employed as a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker with The Oregon Department of Human Service's Midtown Child Welfare branch in Portland. I am writing in support of HB 3037. I understand that my name, my job, my workplace, my salary, and my retirement is public, however it worries me greatly that my personal cell phone, my address where my family lives, and personal identification information may also be public information.

This issue is personally important to me as I had a very scary situation with a client that spanned over 2 years. As a CPS worker I sometimes have to make the hard decision to remove children from their homes, often due to safety issues created by a parent's drug use or mental health issues. In May of 2012 I removed a 2 year old child from a man due to methamphetamines use, drug dealing from the home, domestic violence, and serious concerns regarding his mental health.

This individual, we will call him Frank for ease, behaved in a very hostile and volatile individual. He demonstrated very poor impulse control and has a history of violent behaviors. He spent 10 years in prison for crimes prior to the birth of his 2 year old. He was very upset with me personally as I was the person who removed his child. Frank threatened me on a weekly basis, both by phone and in person. His threatening and intimidating behaviors got him trespassed from Juvenile Court and several service providers refused to work with him as they feared for their safety due to his behaviors. In court one day Frank detailed for a judge how he had searched my name on Google and presented the court with information he felt they should know about me that made me a bad caseworker. This information chilled me as I wondered what personal information was out there about me. Did Frank know my address? My phone number? Information about my family?

At my job we park in the neighborhood as there is only paid parking at my office. One day I was walking into work and heard someone yelling, "fucking bitch, whore, baby stealing cunt"! I looked up and Frank was following me and filming me with his cell phone. He continued to yell foul names at me and follow me. I was terrified. I knew Frank had poor impulse control and I was sincerely worried he would harm me that morning. I made it into my office, immediately went to supervisors, and we called law enforcement. With this incident coupled with Frank's other volatile outburst in the office, we were successful in having him trespassed from my office building also.

His photo was placed on all the office doors with a notice to immediately call Police if he was seen on the property. The agency gave me a special parking spot next to the office and close to a door, as we know a simple trespass notice would not stop Frank from coming back and harassing and possibly harming me. On an almost weekly basis I would hear from other's working with him that Frank had gone on another angry rant about me. He made death threats to other regarding me as well as a supervisor. He held a grudge against me and continued directing anger and threats towards me through others for two years.

Though the agency took some steps to protect me, I still worried for my personal safety outside of work. I often drove my partner's car instead of mine as I was worried Frank had identified my vehicle the day he followed me into work. I was petrified he would follow me home after work. At this time I was a step parent and had a 6 year old child in the home. I worried constantly that Frank would follow me in the community when I was with my step daughter. I was so worried he would hurt her if he saw us in the community as that was one of his threats, that he would show me what it was like to lose a child also.

I ended up moving to a new apartment complex by myself last May. I asked the manager if the lease could be under someone else's name even though I would be living alone. I was told this was not possible legally, but we did change my name in the building call box so it would not look like I lived there if anyone tried to search me. The office also has strict instructions not to give anyone asking about me any information. They also have a color copy of Frank's picture in the office and will alert me if they see him around the neighborhood. Two years later I am still worried Frank will access my personal information and find me at a time when I cannot protect myself.

Luckily for me Frank was sentenced to 26 months in jail a few months ago so I no longer have to worry if the person following me is Frank. I no longer get jittery if someone accidentally calls my apartment from the call box, or I get a hang up or wrong number call on my cell. But Frank is a vindictive individual with serious addiction and mental health issues. I have no doubt that when he is released he will continue his terrorizing harassment of me. When this day come I hope he will be unable to locate any of my personal information.

My situation with Frank is extreme, but not isolated. I know of other co-worker's who have feared for their personal safety due to angry clients. I have co-workers who have been harassed on line when a client has found their email or social media accounts. The job of a CPS worker can be scary at times due to the client's we serve and the nature of the work. I strongly believe protecting our personal information is a safety measure that should be enacted through HB 3037.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for taking the time to read about my experience.

Sincerely,

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