

From the Desk of  
Representative  
Andy Olson



## Make Upskirting a Crime in Oregon

OEA's 42,000 members in Oregon's public schools and community colleges ask you to support HB 2596, which we requested to close a gap in our laws pertaining to invasions of personal privacy.

The bill passed unanimously out of the House Judiciary Committee after hearing from one of our great teachers, who was victimized by this new phenomenon. "Upskirting" involves 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 Oregon media have reported, 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 the act of capturing such images a crime.

Originally, our bill also included the act of circulating the ill-gotten images, but that issue was addressed in a companion bill passed by the Senate and headed soon to your desks, so in order to avoid redundancy, we amended that provision out of this bill. Once both have passed, taking AND circulating such images will both be crimes.

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.

Albany teacher Dana Lovejoy, whose courage in coming forward is truly inspiring, told the committee about the lengths one of her students went to in humiliating her and invading her privacy. For her, we ask you to give your "aye" vote to this common-sense legislation. Thank you.