



**Carla C. Piluso**  
State Representative, House District 50  
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May 20, 2019

RE: House Bill 3224

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee:

For the record my name is Carla Piluso and I proudly represent House District 50, the great city of Gresham.

House Bill 3224 is a commonsense measure to increase government transparency and effectiveness. It requires District Attorneys' offices to develop and maintain written policies about the core functions of their offices, and requires that they make those policies available to the public on their websites.

As legislators, we prioritize transparency and accountability, and we have purposely made our work open to public scrutiny. When Oregonians can understand how we make decisions, they have more trust in their government. And when those decisions are transparent, they can hold us accountable at the ballot box. HB 3224 applies those core principals to Oregon's hardworking District Attorneys.

As many of you know, my background is in law enforcement. I was a police officer for three decades and Gresham's Police Chief for six years. I know from experience that transparency and trust in law enforcement are critical to public safety. Transparency gives both law enforcement and the community clear information about what is expected of them. It gives the community the tools to hold law enforcement accountable.

When members of the public trust law enforcement, they stay engaged with keeping our communities safe. They are more likely to report crimes, testify in court, and cooperate with law enforcement efforts.

District Attorneys are some of the most important actors in our criminal justice system. They make choices on a daily basis that have enormous impacts on Oregonians' lives. They decide who to charge and what they're charged with; which offenders get access to treatment and diversion programs; which victims get access to services and support; and a thousand other small decisions that have an enormous impact on whether our criminal justice system is fair to every Oregonian.

But at least 40 percent of Oregon's District Attorney offices do not have internal written policies to guide their core work. That means that if you're a member of the public, and you want to know more about how your local DA will be handling your loved one's case, there are frequently no clear answers.

DAs are elected by the people they serve. They have a duty to seek justice and serve the people who elected them. Trust and transparency are crucial to making that system work.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla C. Piluso', written in a cursive style.

Carla C. Piluso  
Oregon State Representative, House District 50