

# Northwest Regional Re-entry Center

6000 NE 80th ave. Portland, OR 97218

February 10, 2020

[hjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

RE: House Bill 4145 (2020) (Threats to Schools and Places of Worship)

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to voice my support for House Bill 4145 (2020). This bill is sponsored by Representative Courtney Neron and drafted in partnership with Safe Neighborhoods for Oregon, a non-profit that supports common sense solutions to ensure safe communities to live, work and raise families.

As a law enforcement executive in Oregon and Washington, former interim Director of Security for Portland Public Schools and through my current work with offenders with mental illness, I know firsthand how important compassionate intervention, and communication can be in order to stop a person from acting out in a violent manner. I also know that better access to mental health treatment for individuals in crisis is a critical investment that our state must prioritize to better protect our citizens.

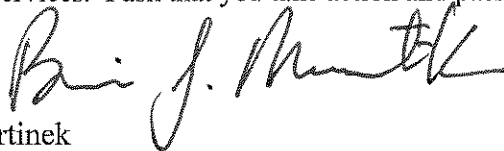
That is why I support House Bill 4145. This bill seeks to prevent escalation in violent behavior from individuals who threaten schools or places of worship by ensuring they have access to mental health treatment and actual supervised probation. It is all too common in counties around the state for probation departments to lack resources necessary to adequately staff their departments in a way that ensures that mentally ill probation clients actually receive the attention they need to get well.

In the current climate where threats against schools and places of worship are increasingly common, I believe we should do all we can to ensure that when a threat is made we respond in a way that balances equally, keeping our community safe and providing resources and mental health treatment, for the people who need it most.

We unfortunately know from years of data across the nation that the vast majority of individuals who commit an act of mass violence made threats beforehand that were not adequately addressed. According to a Secret Service Report analyzing acts of mass violence at schools from 2008 to 2017, 83% of perpetrators "shared verbal, written, visual, or video communications that referenced their intent to carry out an attack, threatened the target, and/or threatened others." (U.S. Secret Service, Protecting America's Schools, pg. 45, 2019).

Today this House Judiciary Committee and the Legislature has an opportunity to make it easier to respond to threats sooner, to ensure that the persons making the threats receive treatment and appropriate supervision services. I ask that you take action and pass House Bill 4145. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Martinek

Executive Director Northwest Regional Re-entry Center,

Former Interim Director of Security Portland Public Schools (2018),

Retired Police Chief of Police, Vancouver WA, Retired Assistant Chief, Portland Police Bureau