

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 30



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 3, 2021

RE: Support for Senate Bill 704

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

SB 704 looks to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals both from initial violence and from not getting justice when they are victimized. The “gay panic” and “trans panic” defenses have been used across the country by those who feel that simply learning someone’s sexual orientation or learning someone is transgender is emotionally jarring enough to justify horrific acts violence against their victims. Violence against the LGBTQIA+ community is unfortunately common, especially against BIPOC trans women. As is too often the case in our society, it is women and people of color who suffer the most. Many of these attacks are motivated by nothing other than the victim’s gender or orientation.

California, Washington, Colorado, and eight other states already explicitly ban the “trans panic” defense. In the 10 days following the 2016 presidential election, Oregon had the 11th highest hate crimes committed of all states in our country. This is an issue our community is concerned about. I have heard from constituents, friends, and family how important the passage of this bill is to them. Passing this bill shows people of all sexualities and genders that we are here for them.

I urge you to send a clear message to Oregonians that hate is never justification for violence by voting Aye on SB 704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janeen Sollman