



May 11, 2021

Chair Floyd Prozanski  
Vice-Chair Kim Thatcher  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and

Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair, Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Reginald Richardson, and I am the president of the Salem-Keizer NAACP. **I am writing in support of House Bill 2986** to require that police officers and certified reserve officers be trained to investigate, identify and report crimes motivated by prejudice based on the perceived gender of the victim.

This bill has broad bipartisan support, passing unanimously (58-0) through the Oregon House, and with the support of Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs, among others.

Violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people has been increasing, with a disproportionate number of victims being Black, indigenous and other people of color. Too often, law enforcement personnel do not understand the importance of this violence, nor the ongoing challenges faced by the transgender community, including a much higher likelihood of self-harm due to the emotional traumas of violence directed toward them.

The second dimension of this bill is decreasing prejudice against women, who may act in ways that some believe are non-traditional for women but would assume as normal among men.

Requiring training on gender bias and prejudice would further Oregon's efforts to provide public safety and policing that protects all Oregonians, regardless of gender identity, gender, race, and other differences.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Reginald C. Richardson, Sr.  
President  
Salem-Keizer NAACP