



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 2986
(TRAINING FOR CRIMES MOTIVATED BY GENDER)

To: House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing
From: Michael Selvaggio, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs
Date: February 16, 2021

Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Michael Selvaggio, representing the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS). We represent line officers and deputies around the State of Oregon, and are Oregon's largest law enforcement organization.

On behalf of our membership, I want to convey our support of HB 2986.

Training officers to investigate, identify, and report crimes based on the gender of the victim is a vital element of ensuring that our law enforcement officers are adequately prepared to protect all Oregonians, especially those who may be disproportionately targeted based on their identity.

Nationwide, fatal violence against transgender or gender non-conforming people has been increasing, with a disproportionate number of victims coming from communities of color. In order to help stem that tide, crimes based on a victim's gender identity were made bias crimes per Oregon law in 2019. It is appropriate that law enforcement officer training keep up with that addition.

All Oregonians deserve to feel safe in their community.

Thank you.