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## **Supporting HB 4144**

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Fahey, and Members of the House Committee on Rules:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some very brief comments in support of House Bill 4144. As the public testimony reflects, election workers across Oregon and the country are increasingly subject to harassment and other hostile behavior. This bill does two things to protect those election workers. First, it allows election workers to exempt their residential address from public records disclosure, lessening the threat of hostile behavior occurring at their private residences. Second, it makes the crime of harassment or aggravated harassment against an election worker a Class C felony, deterring would-be harassers from inappropriate actions.

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) supports the Secretary of State's office with the goals and objectives of election worker safety that they wish to obtain with this bill. This bill is a step towards the protection of those who keep our elections running securely and efficiently. Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 4144.

Sincerely,

OACC