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Testimony of Arthur Towers

OTLA Political Director

**In Opposition to SB 614**

Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary

February 6, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 614.

OTLA members are lawyers who fight for underdogs. In this instance, those underdogs are Oregonians whose rights have been infringed on by their government.

We are concerned about Section 1(2), the section that expands the opportunity for our government to collect or maintain information about Oregonians' religious, political or social views.

Section 1(1) allows law enforcement to collect and maintain this information if the information directly relates to criminal investigations and there is reasonable suspicion that the person is engaged in criminal conduct.

We believe that the exception in Section 1(1) is broad enough. Section 1(2) is an expansion of government power that could easily be abused.

We are also concerned with the breadth of the language on Page 2 lines 18-20. Current law requires "that a camera worn upon a law enforcement officer's person be set to record continuously, **beginning when the officer develops reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that a crime or violation has occurred, is occurring or will occur and the law enforcement officer begins to make contact with the person suspected of committing the offense.**" [emphasis added]

The standards on P 2 lines 18-20 are very vague and would be very open to abuse. This bill as currently written undermines carefully-crafted constitutional and legal safeguards.

We urge a no vote on SB 614.