

Submitter: Calista Songstad
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2572

Law enforcement in Oregon has suffered great losses to their funding and ability to hold those who break the law in custody. The citizens of Oregon have seen their Federal buildings attacked relentlessly by rioters intent on breaking windows and lighting fires. The damage has continued in the vandalizing of businesses and looting of their merchandise. Business owners are fleeing our State. And yet, the legislators representing these same citizens have done nothing to correct the situations effecting these citizens.

Our Capitol sits in an area that has sky rocketed with violent crimes and homelessness that often coincides with mental illness and or drug use. The Capitol is also under heavy construction that limits citizens ability to park nearby and walk safely or gather safely in and around the building.

The legislators are safe with their prime parking garage, but the constituents are left on their own for the walk. There are also no weapons allowed in the building and a metal detector to come through, so constituents must make the walk without protection.

As a petite woman I have felt very vulnerable during my recent trips to the Capitol and wish our legislators would change their focus to making sure we had security down and around the nearby sidewalks and gathering areas to protect the citizens instead of punishing them for ensuring their own protection.

I believe this bill should be struck down now without a work session. It was poorly thought out and its vagueness in definitions leaves too much room for interpretation, and partisan influence. Furthermore this legislation should feel embarrassed that their constituents are nervous about visiting their own house, left wishing that armed brave men and women would be present standing guard to walk them safely there.