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To: House Committee on Rules
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 3111
Date: February 7, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, members of the committee:

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 3111.

In Oregon, as in much of the nation, local governments and local government workers are facing increasing instances of personal attacks based on their employment or volunteer status. School board members in Oregon have been in [local](#) and [national news](#) for the threats they have faced in recent years. These threats seem to be a determined tactic to harass and intimidate participants in local government systems in order to cause them to stop participating.

Anecdotally, at OSBA, the members of our [Oregon School Boards Members of Color Caucus](#) report that this type of harassing behavior is something they face more commonly than the general school board member at large. It seems that this disproportionate impact reported by our members of the OSBMCC could be indicative of a broader challenge across local government systems.

HB 3111 would make discrete, targeted changes to Oregon’s public records law to protect local government employees and volunteers. The changes are specific responses to the challenges facing our employees and volunteers. These changes do not otherwise impact public access or threaten transparency.

Please vote to support HB 3111.