



Mark Meek
State Senator
District 20

February 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Sen. Mark Meek
RE: Support for HB 3035

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3035, which would create a crime of threatening a mass injury event. These threats of mass harm have become disturbingly common – in our schools, places of worship, grocery stores, workplaces, and more. With each incident, the sense of safety and security once felt in these public spaces is shattered.

As someone who spent time growing up in Oregon and raised my two sons here, threats like these were almost unheard of. Now, threats to carry out bombings or mass shootings have locked down two middle schools, a high school, and multiple workplaces – just since 2019, in my district alone. These incidents can have lasting, traumatic consequences that carry on long after the event.

While existing criminal statutes exist for disorderly conduct and menacing, they do not sufficiently apply to many of these cases, often limiting the authority of prosecutors to pursue charges. It is time for Oregon to modernize our criminal code to include incidents like these. HB 3035 will empower prosecutors to hold individuals making these threats accountable for their crimes.

Every person, no matter where they live in Oregon, deserves to feel safe in their community and live their life free from threat or deadly intimidation. Especially our children. I urge you to support HB 3035 and give our prosecutors the tools they need to keep our constituents safe from threats of mass harm.

Sincerely,

Mark Meek
State Senator
District 20 (Oregon City, Gladstone, Happy Valley)