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To: House Committee on Rules

From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist

Re: House Bill 3073-3 Date: May 16, 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 testify in support of House Bill 3073, as amended by the -3 amendments.

School board service is a rewarding, volunteer experience. However, here in Oregon and across the nation, school board races are becoming increasingly political and divisive. School board members are facing attacks and harassing activity with alarming frequency. For example, in 2021, the New York Times detailed the national epidemic of threats towards school board members, including death threats received by an Oregon school board member.<sup>1</sup>

House Bill 3073-3 would take a significant step towards protecting school board members, as well as other candidates, by easily enabling a candidate to check a box to protect home address information. This change, which we separately proposed in HB 3552 for school board members, would benefit Oregon school board members generally. And, more specifically, home address information protection has been something that the Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus membership has been working towards for a long time.

Please support HB 3073-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>'I Don't Want to Die for It': School Board Members Face Rising Threats. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/05/us/politics/school-board-threats.html