

Submitter: Zach Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1563

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1563, introduced in the 2026 Regular Session. This important legislation would establish a civil remedy for Oregonians whose rights, privileges, or immunities secured by Article I of the Oregon Constitution or the laws of this state are violated by a person acting under color of law.

Currently, while federal law provides a mechanism through 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to seek redress for violations of federal constitutional rights by state actors, Oregon lacks a parallel state statutory cause of action specifically tailored to violations of the Oregon Constitution. SB 1563 fills this gap by allowing affected individuals to bring civil actions directly in state court for:

Economic and noneconomic damages

Injunctive or other equitable relief

This bill strengthens accountability for government officials and entities acting under state authority, ensures that Oregon's own Bill of Rights (Article I) has meaningful enforcement mechanisms at the state level, and provides Oregon courts with clearer authority to remedy state constitutional violations without sole reliance on federal courts.

As someone who follows Oregon legislative issues closely, I believe this measure promotes justice, deters misconduct, and upholds the fundamental protections enshrined in Oregon's Constitution. It is a commonsense step toward ensuring that violations of core rights—such as free speech, due process, protection against unreasonable searches, and other Article I guarantees—can be effectively addressed in Oregon's own judicial system.

I urge the Committee to advance SB 1563 promptly and recommend its passage. This bill will enhance protections for all Oregonians and reinforce the state's commitment to constitutional governance.