



**Testimony of Carol Moreno Cifuentes, Senior Policy Analyst
In Support of HB 4017
House Committee on Rules
February 5th, 2026**

Chair Bowman and Members of the Committee,

The Secretary of State's office supports the passage of HB 4017. As threats to elected officials continue to rise, it is important that we provide clarity on what options are available to support the security of those serving in or seeking public office.

HB 4017 clarifies our existing application of the law by explicitly permitting the use of campaign contributions for security-related expenses. It also expands the use of these security-related expenses to the immediate family members of candidates or holders of public office.

We feel the urgency of this issue. In a recent report by Issue One this month, 47% of Oregon's 36 counties have experienced turnover among County Clerks in the last five years, the majority departing for personal reasons. Additionally, a study released by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue has also found that violent rhetoric toward elected officials has increased more than 200% between 2021 and 2025.

At a time when doxxing, bomb threats, and other forms of intimidation continue to impact public officials in Oregon, we want to ensure that there is added clarity on what resources are available to them. The ability to ensure safety measures for an elected official, a candidate, or their family, should not be contingent on what personal resources are available. For these reasons, the Secretary of State's office supports HB 4017 and appreciates the opportunity to provide input.