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Testimony on HB 4017
Submitted by Holly Borgmann, ADT Security Services
Senate Rules Committee
February 25, 2025

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for House Bill 4017, a bill that would grant state and local candidates in Oregon right to use campaign funds to pay for security. My name is Holly Borgmann and I'm the Vice President of Government Affairs for ADT, the nation's largest home security company.

One need only pick up a newspaper to see that threats against political candidates and elected officials are on the rise. The Brennan Center for Justice estimated in its January 2024 report that as many as 40% of elected officials either recently received threats or had been attacked. Just last month, the US Capitol Police reported that they saw a 50% increase in threats in 2025 to Members of Congress, their staff, and the Capitol building over the prior year.

Too often, I receive calls from elected officials or their staff who have been threatened and need security assistance. Every single time, I hear from the official, "It's not myself that I'm worried about - it's my family." These threats are happening in red and blue states and are directed at members of both parties – whether made directly in the form of a phone call or email, or indirectly in the form of "pizza doxxing," where a pizza is sent to a candidate's home to show that the person making the threat knows where the person lives and can get to them.

No security system is failsafe, but recent advances in technology allow homeowners to check surveillance cameras when they hear an unexpected noise, or to talk through a video doorbell instead of opening a door to a stranger. Video clips can be preserved or sent to law enforcement for investigation, and homes can be monitored when the candidate is away.

Regardless of political beliefs, no one should have to choose between the safety of their family and their right to engage in the political process. If committed Oregonians are driven out of politics by fear, we will all miss out on the unique perspectives they could have brought to the table. House Bill 4017 will help current and would be public servants protect themselves and their families while working to represent their communities in the public policy arena.

On behalf of ADT, I thank you for your consideration and ask for a favorable vote for HB 4017.