

February 25, 2026

Written Testimony on HB 4017  
Submitted by the Electronic Security Association

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee:

The Electronic Security Association respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 4017. ESA represents professionals who design, install, and monitor electronic security and life safety systems across Oregon and nationwide.

House Bill 4017 provides important clarity within Oregon's campaign finance law by specifying that campaign funds may be used for reasonable security-related expenses when those expenses arise from being a candidate or holding public office. This includes security alarm systems, surveillance cameras, access control systems, and monitoring services.

The bill does not create a new category of campaign spending. Rather, it clarifies existing law and establishes clear compliance boundaries. It is narrowly tailored to apply only to basic security measures connected to public service. It does not authorize unrelated home improvements, luxury upgrades, or firearms purchases.

Under current law, candidates and officeholders may face uncertainty regarding whether installing basic security protections could later be interpreted as improper personal use of campaign funds. That ambiguity can discourage preventative security measures and create inconsistent enforcement interpretations. House Bill 4017 resolves that uncertainty by clearly tying allowable expenses to public service while preserving Oregon's existing transparency and reporting requirements.

Importantly, the measure recognizes that security is preventative by nature. It does not require proof of a specific threat before protective steps may be taken. Waiting for documented harm before implementing reasonable security measures undermines the purpose of prevention.

House Bill 4017 is a narrow, common-sense clarification that strengthens legal certainty while maintaining Oregon's campaign finance and ethics safeguards. For these reasons, ESA respectfully urges the Committee to support the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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