



Commissioner Carmen Rubio

City of Portland

May 2, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports HB 3443, which extends vital tenant protections to victims of bias crimes, ensuring that these victims can determine how best to stabilize and secure their housing following such an incident without worrying about financial penalties, eviction, or having to remain in a housing unit. As bias crimes are more likely to be perpetrated on vulnerable populations, including people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and religious minorities, the City of Portland enthusiastically supports this bill as an important step toward promoting the health and safety of some of the most vulnerable and historically marginalized community members.

HB 3443 is particularly important right now as bias crimes are on the rise in Oregon and are more likely to occur in or around the victim's home or workplace. The bill allows victims to request locks be changed, to move units within a complex, or break their lease without incurring fees, which can help to provide some peace of mind to a victim of bias crimes. Allowing a victim to leave the unit without penalty will help spare them from the secondary trauma of having to remain in a unit where they feel unsafe.

The bill also gives landlords the ability to terminate the lease of perpetrators of bias crimes, giving landlords an important tool to protect the housing and security of other tenants as well as secure their property.

Lastly, the employment protections extended to victims of bias crimes are important due to the close relationship between employment and housing. The ability for victims to take protected leave from their jobs to arrange a move, heal, and take other steps to protect themselves helps promote long term economic security. Compounding the trauma of being a victim of a bias crime with a potential job loss could place the individual at risk of losing housing due to a lack of income.

We look forward to working with you to support victims of bias crimes access necessary tenant protections. This bill is greatly needed as we move towards building a more just and inclusive housing system for the most vulnerable Oregonians.

We enthusiastically urge you to support HB 3443.

Thank you,

Carmen Rubio
Commissioner, City of Portland