



May 12, 2021

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

The Greater Oregon Society of Professional Journalists supports HB3047A. Journalists, like many others, sometimes are targets of doxxing.

We oppose the A5 amendment, which only became available 24 hours before this morning's HB3047 hearing. With the deletion of one word on page 2 of the amendment, "personnel," it makes a sweeping change to a complex area of public records law: Availability of personally identifiable information of public employees.

In the short time available to review the amendment, attorneys with expertise in public records law have given us a range of possible consequences of the A5 amendment, but this much is clear:

- It would significantly increase the cost and burden of even routine public records requests, requiring a far higher level of review and logistical support by government agencies that already often do not feel they have the staff and resources for such work.
- It would obstruct reporting and other community oversight on matters of great public interest, such as reports in recent years about residence patterns of law enforcement officers as compared to the jurisdictions where they work. The A5, had it been law, likely would have obstructed important reporting on the use of personal email accounts by high public officials and their advisers to conduct government business in a manner contrary to the pro-transparency intent of Oregonians' public records law.

We urge the committee to reject the A5 amendment, and, as the Attorney General's office suggested in the hearing, refer discussion of related issues to the appropriate interim forum. Such a significant change to this particularly complex area of public records law should not move forward without extensive stakeholder engagement and thorough legislative hearings.

Respectfully yours,

Rachel Alexander, co-chair, Greater Oregon Society of Professional Journalists Freedom of Information Committee.