



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Oregon House Passes Bill to Include Training on Gender-Based Crimes for Law Enforcement Officers**

*House Bill 2986 updates training requirements to include how to investigate, identify, and report crimes based on gender, which disproportionately impact women, gender non-conforming folks and people of color*

SALEM, OR— This morning, as part of a group of bills aimed at criminal justice reform, the Oregon House of Representatives passed [House Bill 2986](#), which requires the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training to ensure that police officers and certified reserve officers are trained to investigate, identify and report crimes motivated by prejudice based on perceived gender of victim.

“There is clearly a need for increased attention to gender and perceived gender in police training,” said [Representative David Gomberg](#) (D- Central Coast). “This concept was brought to me by a constituent. The result will be better interactions between victims and law enforcement, as well as better outcomes.”

Crimes based on gender disproportionately impact women, gender non-conforming folks, and people of color. According to the Human Rights Campaign, 2020 was the worst year for violence against transgender women in the United States since they began tracking these statistics in 2013, with 44 confirmed violent deaths. Already in 2021, there have been 15 fatal acts of violence against transgender people, the majority of whom were Black and Latinx transgender women.

“Domestic violence, sexual assault, and many other violent crimes can be and often are motivated by a gender bias,” said Representative [Karin Power](#) (D- Milwaukie) “Across the country, we have seen an increase in violent crimes, up to and including murder, against transgender and gender non-conforming people, with a disproportionate number of those impacting people of color. Our police need to be properly trained to respond to these crimes, and to protect Oregonians who are targeted because of their gender.”

HB 2986, which passed with unanimous support, now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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