Oregon House Passes Bills to Protect Privacy of Oregonians

House Bills 3273 A and 3047 A address the release of booking photos and create civil cause of action for doxing in order to protect people’s right to privacy.

SALEM, OR—As part of a suite of bills aimed at criminal justice reform, the Oregon House today passed two additional pieces of legislation that would protect people’s right to privacy.

House Bill 3273 A relates to the circumstances under which booking photos can be released or published and creates rules for removing these photos from publish-for-pay publications.

“The day someone gets arrested can quite frankly be one the worst days of their lives,” said Rep. Andrea Salinas (D- Lake Oswego). “Those photos that are published can ruin a person’s life who has not yet been found guilty of any crime. They can linger on and impact people’s lives for years to come. This legislation helps protect those people from having one bad day damage their future.”

Upon request, publish-for-pay sites would have 30-days to remove or destroy a booking photo, and could charge no more than $50 for the service. Additionally, HB 3273 A limits the circumstances under which law enforcement agencies can release booking photos. The photo can still be released to other law enforcement entities and can be distributed for the purposes of locating a fugitive or suspect.

House Bill 3047 A takes aim at the harmful practice of doxing, when someone deliberately releases a person’s private information online, such work address or personal email, with the intent to incite harassment.

“Following the protests last summer, my colleagues and I heard from constituents, journalists, advocates, organizers, and members of law enforcement who were negatively impacted by
doxing,” said Rep. Wlnsvey Campos (D-Aloha). “Doxing has been used as a tool to silence people who are trying to make their voices heard. We are giving these people the tools they need to protect themselves and hold those responsible accountable.”

Under HB 3047 A, a person has cause to sue for damages if their information is released without their consent, and results or could result in stalking, harassment, or injury.

Both of these pieces of legislation were the products of an anti-doxing workgroup that was formed through the work of the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform. That committee was made up of a broad coalition including legislators, the Oregon Department of Justice, OJRC, Association of Oregon Counties, OCDLA, Multnomah County DA’s Office, NOBLE, OSSA and Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police.

HB 3273 A passed 54-4 and HB 3047 A passed with unanimous support.

###