



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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For more information, contact:
Hannah Kurowski
Hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon House Passes Legislation Affirming Anti-Racist Values for Law Enforcement, Adds Social Media Policies and Standardized Background Check

HB 2936 A finds that racism has no place in public safety and requires a statewide, uniform background check for law enforcement units to implement during the hiring processes.

SALEM, OR— Today, the Oregon House passed [House Bill 2936 A](#), which finds that racism has no place in public safety and that an officer’s membership or participation in hate groups, racial supremacist organizations, militant groups, or display of hate symbols erodes public trust in law enforcement. Several [reports](#) from the Federal Bureau of Investigation over the last decade have documented a rise in white supremacists in law enforcement. The bill would require the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to create a statewide uniform background check for law enforcement units to implement during hiring processes.

“Public safety must be front and center in this conversation,” said [Rep. Tawna Sanchez](#) (D-N & NE Portland). “When we have law enforcement participating in hate groups, we are putting people’s lives at risk, and this is especially true for our Black and Brown communities. This law is crucial for people’s safety; for people’s livelihoods.”

HB 2936 A also requires law enforcement agencies to develop policies setting standards for speech and conduct by officers. The measure sets parameters on sharing non-law enforcement employment information as part of the background check process.

“We must protect Oregonians and specifically BIPOC who we know are most affected,” said [Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn). “There is no room for hate. Holding our law enforcement to a high standard as arbitrators of the law is just common sense.”

The bill passed 54-4 and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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