

BOBBY LEVY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 58



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 18, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on House Bill 2556

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Today, I cast my vote in opposition to HB 2556, despite Portland State University being my alma mater. While I recognize PSU's role in higher education and research, I cannot in good conscience support a measure that bestows this designation upon an institution that has failed to ensure the safety and well-being of all its students—particularly its Jewish community.

Portland State University has been one of the universities in this country where anti-Semitic behavior has been most pervasive. Jewish students and faculty have faced harassment, intimidation, and even riots that have gone largely unchecked by university leadership. To this day, many in the Jewish community do not feel safe on campus, and that is unacceptable. Universities should be places of learning, inclusion, and respect, not hotbeds for hostility and discrimination.

While I fully support investments in research and higher education, I cannot overlook the fundamental responsibility of a public institution to protect all of their students. Until PSU demonstrates a serious commitment to addressing anti-Semitism and ensuring that Jewish students can learn in a safe and supportive environment, I cannot support HB 2556.

Sincerely,

House District 58 State Representative, Bobby Levy