

May 1st, 2009

To the Honorable Chris Edwards
900 Court St. NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Edwards,

I was very pleased to see HJM 22 presented to the legislature this week. I called your office in support of it yesterday. As your constituent and one of several activists that help write the language for this resolution I am hoping that as Vice-Chair of the House Rules Committee you will give it quick consideration.

It seems like a simple thing for people to expect to be safe in our state and yet the Hate Crime in Seaside Oregon against Samson Deal and Kevin Petterson underscores the need not only for our State Hate Crime Statute but also for the need to see a similarly comprehensive Federal Statute.

I have been very impressed by Seaside Police Chief Robert Gross' response to the attack. His professionalism and commitment to justice has been exemplary.

It doesn't matter whether a person agrees with someone being gay or lesbian or not, that's irrelevant. People deserve to feel and be safe in their communities. HJM 22 is the morally correct response to the act of violence against Samson and Kevin and acts like it in our state.

I urge you to calendar HJM 22 for a hearing and work session quickly to add Oregon's voice to the national stage for a much needed Federal Statute.

Sincerely,

Alan Brown

Alan Brown
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