



**Testimony on HB 3467
House Judiciary Committee
Submitted by the Oregon Association of Broadcasters
April 11, 2013**

Chair Barker and members of the committee, I am Patrick McCreery, the current Vice Chair of the Oregon Association of Broadcasters and General Manager of KPTV television in Portland.

Thank you for allowing the OAB to testify on HB 3467. We have serious concerns with the bill as written, but certainly appreciate the willingness of the bill sponsors – Rep. Mitch Greenlick and Rep. Jennifer Williamson – to correct the unintended consequences of restricting news media access to mugshots or making us pay to obtain them.

Oregon broadcasters typically use 30-50 mugshots per month for our newscasts or online news content. We access these mugshots directly from law enforcement websites – which we are encouraged to do – but sometimes we have to request them because the photo has yet to be posted.

For example, if a news media outlet was required to pay just \$25 per mugshot, that would be an additional \$750-\$1,250 per month for a news station to absorb. Additionally, many crimes involve several suspects and mugshot requests could be costly for one story.

Broadcasters and law enforcement agencies have a symbiotic relationship. Law enforcement readily provides mugshots. And broadcasters help distribute the information about suspects through newscasts or online content. This assists law enforcement with communication to the public about a suspect or crime.

It benefits the viewer to see a mugshot of a suspect, especially if there are possibly other victims. In addition, the mugshot can provide better identification of a suspect especially if the suspect's name is common.

If a newsroom had to start cutting back on mugshot requests because of cost, the viewer would end up losing out the most.

If you choose to take action on HB 3467, please work with the bill sponsors and OAB to amend the bill to exempt the news media.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you if this bill moves forward.