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| memorandum

Date: April 9, 2013

To: Rep. Jeff Barker, Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

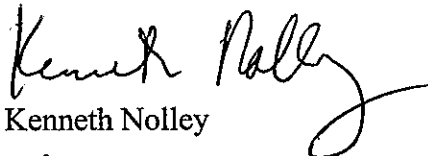
Subject: HB 3467

We are writing to urge your support for the proposal put forward in HB3467 to limit the publication of mug shots. The *Oregonian* front page story on the bill in the April 2 issue accurately portrayed the problems that the release of such photos inescapably produces. The number of websites publishing such photos has proliferated in recent years, and the central function of many of these sites is quite simply a shakedown racket. Much of what the sites put up is aimed specifically at people whose identities might be on the sites in order to extract money from them in exchange for the removal of their pictures. But as we all know, the internet is a web of connections and the existence of an image on one website only leads to more and more images on other sites, each of which demands money to remove their particular image.

A central tenet of our justice system is articulated in the statutes of limitations that are a part of our state and federal laws. But the internet has no such limitations; material released without controls into the internet world will be there as long as someone finds it profitable to maintain it. What these websites do leads to lost jobs, lost housing, indeed the destabilization of lives that have often been productive and praiseworthy for years or decades. The deleterious results not only affect individuals, they often undermine the lives of entire families.

HB 3467 marks an important effort to curb the extortion scams run by a growing number of websites. This is much-needed legislation dealing with an issue that is a growing concern nationally. Utah has already enacted a bill like this; we ask for your support here in Oregon.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Nolley


Janet Nolley