



Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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SB 340: SUPPORT

The Oregon District Attorneys Association supports SB 340, which creates the crime of Hindering Prosecution in the Second Degree.

Currently, Hindering Prosecution in the *First Degree* (ORS 162.325) prohibits intentionally hindering the apprehension, prosecution, conviction or punishment of a person who has committed a crime punishable as a *felony*, or with the intent to assist a person who has committed a crime punishable as a *felony* in profiting or benefiting from the commission of the crime by doing certain enumerated acts. SB 340 simply brings *misdemeanor* crimes within the hindering statute.

Persons who intentionally obstruct the apprehension of known criminals by the use of force, deception or other means should be held accountable. Because it is limited to felony offenses, ORS 162.325 does not encompass crimes such as Assault in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, or Menacing.

Consequently, a significant portion of the criminal population and those offering them comfort are able to avoid that accountability. SB 340 patches that hole in the system.

Passage of SB 340 makes good public safety and criminal justice sense for all Oregonians.