

*Phil Barnhart & Kim Thatcher*

From the desks of: State Representatives Phil Barnhart & Kim Thatcher

## **House Bill 2384 Cracks Down on Repeat Offenders Driving With Suspended Licenses & Gives Law Enforcement Better Tools to Keep Chronic DWI Offenders Off the Road**

- HB 2384 allows police agencies in Oregon to have the option to seize a vehicle for possible forfeiture if the offender has had a conviction in the past 3 years of certain Driving While Suspended or Revoked crimes.
- Law enforcement agencies would have to establish policies and procedures for seizures.

### **HB 2384 Endorsed by Oregon District Attorney's Association, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, & Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance**

*"HB 2384 authorizes forfeiture of a motor vehicle owned by an individual who has been previously convicted of a criminal DWS, and continues to drive, putting all of us at risk. Once the offender is convicted a second time, the vehicle owned by the offender may be forfeited. What better way to deter repeat offenders than by taking away the tool (the car) they use to commit their crime, driving while suspended?" Daina Vitolins, Crook County District Attorney, Co-Chair ODAA Legislative Committee & ODAA Board Member.*

*"We believe that the addition of forfeiture as a tool and an option for officers who stop chronic DWS offenders will result in fewer repeat offenders and increased safety for our motoring public." Kevin Campbell, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police*

*"With the inability, in some counties, to provide bed space for chronic offenders who ignore fines and citations, the ability to seize their vehicle may be the only option law enforcement has to get their attention and keep them off the roads." Darrell Fuller, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association*

### **By the Numbers:**

- In 2012 there were approximately 185,000 people in Oregon who had their driver license suspended or revoked. That is just over 6% of the total number issued driver licenses in the state. More than 32,000 drivers had one or more convictions for Driving While Suspended or Revoked over the past 3 years.
- HB 2384 targets the more serious offenders convicted of criminal driving while suspended or revoked (ORS 811.182) and aggravated driving while suspended or revoked (ORS 163.196). Around 1,350 offenders have been convicted in past 3 years of one of the crimes targeted in HB 2384 and might have had their car seized if this law were in place before now.

