



Conserving the Peace  
**SHERIFF**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
Pat Garrett, Sheriff

May 31, 2013

*From the desk of Rep. Jim Weidner*

Representative Jim Weidner  
900 Court Street NE, H-387  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of House Bill 3422

Dear Representative Weidner,

I wish to thank you for the information your office provided me on May 9, 2013, regarding HB 3422. I am encouraged by the progress that has been made with regard to this piece of legislation and offer my full endorsement for its passage.

As you may know, the Washington County Sheriff's Office is host to the Westside Interagency Narcotics (WIN) team, which regularly handles Len Bias type cases, among others. While we have enjoyed success and are pleased to partner with the US Attorney's Office in working Len Bias cases, we would certainly welcome the additional support that a complimentary State law would provide. We look forward to the beneficial investigative tools that HB 3422 would give us in the fight against drugs and drug overdoses.

Our investigators are actually bracing for a potential rise in narcotic related overdoses. As has been reported in the media, the patent on Oxycontin is set to expire later this year. Consequently, pharmaceutical companies are already preparing to make non-tamper proof, generic versions of this drug, which will undoubtedly hit the streets in large supply. This prescription drug is dangerous in its own right (addictive and widely abused), but is doubly so, when you consider that it has been the catalyst for a whole new generation of heroin users; which produces similar effects at a fraction of the expense. In our experience, heroin is a major culprit in overdose deaths.

We need a State law with significant penalties to give law enforcement investigative efforts the leverage necessary to reach high up into Drug Trafficking Organizations, in order to disrupt and/or dismantle them effectively. We support HB 3422. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Pat Garrett  
Washington County Sheriff