
OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4120

Before the House Business Committee / February 3, 2014

By: Darrell W. Fuller / 971-388-1786 / fuller_darrell@yahoo.com



Chair Doherty and members of the House Business Committee:

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association is comprised of Oregon's 36 elected county sheriffs. Sheriffs take seriously their charge to be "conservators of the peace." Their role in public safety is broad, including routine patrol, investigating crime, search and rescue, marine patrol, jails, community corrections, court security, civil services and the issuance of concealed handgun licenses.

Sheriff's offices across the state, small and large, rely heavily on volunteers to assist in their public safety mission. From Search and Rescue to reserve Deputies patrolling alongside paid Deputies, these dedicated men and women donate thousands of hours each year to make their communities safer and our Oregon a better place to live. And, sadly, on occasion, these first responders -- who are our friends and neighbors -- make the ultimate sacrifice. A Deputy's status as reserve or paid is insignificant when families must be notified that their loved-one has died.

Oregon's Sheriffs whole-heartedly support extending scholarship opportunities to the children of volunteer firefighters and reserve law enforcement officers.

Nothing you do here can bring back a mother or father who makes the ultimate sacrifice in service to others. Everything you do here is a relatively hollow gesture in light of the loss a family feels when a father or mother dies in the line of duty. That being said, anything you can do here to assist the families is worthy of being done, is worthy of funding, is worthy of support.

Oregon Sheriffs urge you to give House Bill 4120 a unanimous "do pass" recommendation to the full House of Representatives.

Thank you for holding a Public Hearing on this important bill. Oregon Sheriffs stand ready to assist in any way possible to ensure this bill becomes law.

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303 (503) 364-4204 info@oregonsheriffs.org www.oregonsheriffs.org