



OARPO
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Oregon Association of Reserve Peace Officers

February 3, 2014

Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Reference House Bill 4125

I've been a Reserve Deputy for Umatilla County Sheriff's Office for the past 33 years. Before that I was a Reserve Deputy with Marion County for 12 years. I'm sending this letter to Promote **HB 4125** and how it pertains to Reserve Police Officers.

I'm representing the **Oregon Police Officers Association's** 1200 plus members. And also represent OARPO – **Oregon Association of Reserve Police Officers**. I'm currently President of OARPO, which is a sub-chapter of OPOA. We have about 100 members representing 29 agencies throughout the state.

There are almost 1300 Reserves in the state of Oregon. They work for **both small rural** and the **largest agencies** in the state. Reserves compliment the Regular paid officer of these agencies. In some smaller departments, those having only a few Regular officers, Reserve are often the only source of backup or relief for days off or vacations. Reserves usually wear the same badge and uniform as Regular officers so the public cannot tell the difference as reserve officers perform the job as a **Peace Officer** to ensure the safety of our cities and counties.

In 2009 Aggravated Murder had been in the news because of the attempted murder of three Madras Police Officers. The suspect pleads guilty to Attempted Aggravated Murder of the two full time officers and Attempted Murder of the Reserve Police Officer. The incident, as ludicrous as it seems, involved the suspect shooting at the officers at the same time, but since the Reserve Officer is not identified in the Aggravated Murder statute the suspect could not be charged the same crime as committed against the full time officers. There have been several incidents in previous years regarding attempted murder of Reserve Officers.

More recently Reserve Officer Robert Libke was killed while answering a call in Oregon City. If his assailant had he not been killed, he would have only faced

the charge of Murder, not Aggravated Murder. Officer Libke was performing the same duties as a Regular Police officer, protecting the public from harm.

There is NOT any reason why Reserves should be regarded any differently than Regular Officers when it comes to the definitions of a **Peace Officer** in ORS 163.095. Especially since Reserve police officer was defined in ORA 133.005 to be the same as a Peace Officer in 2011.

Bill Miller

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