



**To: Members of the House Veterans' Services and
Emergency Preparedness**

From: Chief Geoff Spalding
Beaverton Police Department

Date: February 4, 2014

Re: Testimony in support of HB 4087

Chair Matthews and Members of the House Veterans' Services and Emergency Preparedness Committee,

For the record, my name is Geoff Spalding and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Beaverton. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to express our strong support for HB 4087. This measure creates a Task Force on School Safety and sets the stage for developing a statewide mapping strategy designed to insure a quick and effective public safety response when a school shooting or other emergency occurs in a school setting.

Currently, local jurisdictions are attempting to prepare for the possibility of an on-campus incident that puts students and teachers at risk...most of these are taking place in isolation. The result is a patchwork of mapping projects and other strategic/tactical efforts from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Most mapping projects fail to address the likely prospect that agencies from surrounding jurisdictions will deploy in order to provide assistance when a school shooting event or other school-based crises occurs. The OACP supports the need for better coordination of information and the formation of the Task Force on School Safety to bring all the stakeholders together and provide some standardization and coordination of protocols, common terminology, training and response across disciplines.

With the assistance of the Legislature and the passage of HB 4087, a Task Force on School Safety can be launched and a statewide mapping project can be initiated similar to the project conducted by the State of Washington. Effective mapping plans include floor plans (including points for roof and tunnel access), designations for doors to indicate if they are normally locked, common nomenclature for the rooms and photographs of all sides of the facilities. The plans designate routes in and out, command posts, staging areas, parent/child reunification points and inner and outer perimeters. When all of these things are designated in advance and when a system that allows non-local first responders to have immediate access to where they should go

without having to be directed there, local first responders can put more resources toward ending threats and saving lives. As previously mentioned, many agencies already have such plans in place, but they are not available to officers from other jurisdictions. This causes a tremendous drain on resources because local first responders must be dedicated to managing and directing incoming first responders and any confusion along the way creates additional risk to students, the potential for traffic bottlenecks and on overall delayed response.

Sincerely,

Chief Geoff Spalding
Beaverton Police Department