
OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION & OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 1577

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Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Health Care 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.



The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police represents the chief law enforcement officers in cities across the state including Tribal Police Offices and other local policing agencies. They are responsible for keeping the peace in large metropolitan settings as well as the rural communities which dot much of Oregon.

The process of searching for a missing person, especially a vulnerable adult, changes dramatically from county to county and city to city depending on geography and population density. A one-size-fits-all, state-mandated search process does not serve anyone well. On the other hand, Sheriffs and Chiefs across the state strongly support a state mandate to take the time and care needed to create a well-thought-out, written policy on the methodology and process for conducting a search for vulnerable adults, as they are a population of missing persons needing special attention and training. These policies will include cooperative agreements between Sheriffs and Chiefs to best utilize specialty training and equipment when appropriate.

Senate Bill 1577 requires police agencies to create and adopt a policy for "Silver Alerts" when vulnerable adults. It is good public policy and Oregon Chiefs and Sheriffs support it. Thank you.

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

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