

**SHERRIE SPRENGER**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 17



MEASURE: HB 4125  
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SUBMITTED BY: Rep. Helsan

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**900 COURT ST NE**  
**SALEM, OR 97301**

February 6, 2014

Chair Barker and Committee Members,

I am privileged to testify in support of HB 4125. This bill adds Reserve Police Officers to the definition "Police Officer," I was both a "regular" officer and a reserve officer. I assure you, I felt no safer nor immune to danger as a reserve.

In rural parts of Oregon reserve officers are often times relied upon as heavily as "regular" officers. When I was a deputy sheriff in Grant County our reserve ranks outnumbered our paid ranks. We always had a contingency of reserves with us when we executed a drug raid. There simply were not enough of us without the additional support.

One night when I was a deputy in Benton County I was the only "regular" deputy working and was quite thrilled to see three reserves show up at the beginning of shift. I sent two reserves to work together in one car, and brought the third reserve with me. I find it ironic that particular swing shift had the same weather conditions that prevent me from testifying before you today. Reserve officers are a very important link in public safety.

What I believe is the most important element of this bill is the concrete step of including reserves in the statutory definition of "Police Officer." I have always felt that an attack on a police officer is akin to an attack on our society. Police represent order and the rule of law and a reserve police officer is no less of a representation of that. I do not believe the life of a police officer is more valuable than any other person's life. What our police and sheriff's departments stand for is a civilized society with rules and order of our own protection.

I sincerely ask you to support HB4125.

Sincerely,

Representative Sherrie Sprenger  
House District 17