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# OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AND OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4120

Before the Senate Education & Workforce Committee / February 18, 2014

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Chair Hass and members of the Senate Education and Workforce Committee:

Sheriff's and Chiefs 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 Chiefs and 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 and Chiefs 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.

*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 law enforcement leaders from over 130 local agencies throughout the State of Oregon including city, tribal and university police departments. The members of the OACP are committed to support and maintain the highest standards of public safety and police protection for the people who live, work and play in the State of Oregon. The mission of the association is to promote the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement at all levels throughout the state.*

**Oregon State Sheriffs' Association**

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