



**To: Members of the Senate General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee**

**From:** Kevin Campbell, Executive Director  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

**Date:** February 18, 2014

**Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 4011-A**

Chair Shields and Members of the Senate General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), please accept this letter in opposition to portions of HB 4011-A. We oppose portions of this measure that seek to eliminate the ability of cities and counties to adopt local ordinances that require pawnbrokers to photograph precious metal items.

In 2012, State Representative Nancy Nathanson introduced HB 4108 (photography of items of precious metals ordinance authority) which regulates pawnshops and secondhand dealers who purchase items of precious metal (gold, silver, platinum, etc.). The State Legislature passed the bill and it was adopted into law. As part of the reporting requirements, secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers are required to provide a photograph of items of precious metal acquired through both secondhand and pawn transactions if local ordinances require them to do so.

With HB 4011-A, pawn dealers are seeking to exempt themselves from any city or county ordinances requiring photographs of items of precious metal for pawn transactions. While the language currently included in the ORS is confusing, a recent Legislative Counsel opinion confirms that local governments currently have the authority to require a photo of precious metal items for both secondhand transactions and pawn transactions. We strongly believe that local communities should have the authority to determine if a photograph should be required for these transactions for their communities.

The value of the requirement to photograph items of precious metal (gold, silver, platinum, etc.) has several direct and tangible benefits including: the identification and recovery of stolen jewelry, the identification and prosecution of individuals involved in the theft and sale of stolen property and the return of stolen property to victims of crime.

The language of HB 4011 as currently written would have a detrimental impact on law enforcements ability to effectively identify and recover stolen property and to arrest and prosecute property crime offenders. For these reasons, we cannot support HB 4011-A as currently written.