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# **OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4037**

**Before the Senate Judiciary Committee / February 20, 2014**

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Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary 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.

Handling juvenile offenders, even when transporting them, must be handled carefully and properly. Mixing juveniles with adult offenders can create collateral problems in an already cumbersome process. There are times when a cooperative agreement between the Department of Corrections and a county Sheriff can expedite the transfer process and save taxpayer dollars. However, statutes currently do not allow for an intergovernmental agreement of this nature. House Bill 4037 creates the statutory framework to permit these agreements to be negotiated.

It should be noted that these are voluntary agreements. The State cannot force a county Sheriff into an agreement. The Sheriff continues to maintain and exercise control of how juvenile offenders are transported and transferred.

This is an easy bill. It creates an opportunity which should not require legislative action to permit. Oregon Sheriffs support House Bill 4037 and ask the committee to give it a "do pass" recommendation to the full Senate.

**Oregon State Sheriffs' Association**

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