



Oregon

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Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

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TO: Senate Business and Transportation Committee

FROM: Chuck Hayes, Chairman
Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

SUBJECT: *Senate Bill 13*

Introduction

The Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII strongly supports Senate Bill 13, to establish the necessary guidelines to allow Sobriety Checkpoints in Oregon.

Thirty-eight states currently use Sobriety Checkpoints as a tool to deter impaired driving, and these checkpoints, when used properly and within the strict guidelines required by SB 13, are recognized as a best practice by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Discussion

Sobriety Checkpoints are the one critical tool that Oregon does not currently permit in the fight against impaired driving. Court cases have determined that in order for a checkpoint to be conducted in a constitutionally permissible manner, they must meet certain requirements, such as the ones that have been established by NHTSA. SB 13 would implement those standards if a vote of the people approves Sobriety Checkpoints.

The strength of Sobriety Checkpoints is not an increase of arrests, prosecutions and incarcerations, but in the deterrence that comes from working with the community, advertising the efforts in advance, educating the driving community about safe, responsible choices and creating an opportunity for positive, professional interactions with law enforcement.

Of the 12 states that do not permit Sobriety Checkpoints, three of those states have the highest rate of alcohol-involved fatalities in the nation: Montana (52%), Rhode Island (45%) and Texas (44%). Washington is close behind with 36%. Only Oregon is below the national average of 33%. While Oregon's efforts against impaired driving have been comparatively successful, we have much work to do. That work will also be undoubtedly complicated by the passage of Measure 91 that now legalizes recreational marijuana use.

A recent public opinion survey of 1000 people statewide conducted by ODOT in May of 2014 showed public support for checkpoints at 65%.

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Summary

The Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII strongly urges the passage of SB 13. Sobriety Checkpoints are proven to be an effective and efficient tool to prevent impaired driving, with the positive impacts extending well beyond the roadway. When Sobriety Checkpoints are conducted within the guidelines established by SB 13 and NHTSA, the safety of the public will be enhanced and their Constitutional safeguards will be preserved.

We sincerely appreciate the committee's time and willingness to address this important matter, and we look forward to answering any questions or providing data that may help the committee.