



Oregon State Police Officers' Association

OREGON STATE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

3905 River Road N
Suite B
Keizer, Oregon 97303
(503) 393-6535 or
1-800-503-2327
FAX (503) 393-6542
www.ospoa.com

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President

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Vice-President

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Secretary

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LEGAL COUNSEL

Daryl Garrettson
Attorney at Law

Date: February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce Committee

Subject: *Senate Bill 128*

The Oregon State Police Officers' Association strongly supports Senate Bill 128 to establish telecommunicator (dispatcher) compensation comparators among the "five public safety answering points" in the state. Our goal is to retain and recruit high quality dispatchers to meet the department's vision of Premier Public Safety Services for Oregon.

Recent comparisons with the cities of Portland and Salem, along with Washington, Clackamas, and Lane counties indicate a significant disparity. Our telecommunicators' earnings are approximately 25% less than the aggregate average among these major comparators. With two regional dispatch centers servicing all of Oregon, it is imperative that we encourage recruitment, retention, and wellness by actively pursuing a relevant and competitive market environment. Unfortunately, this is not the case with vacant FTEs, high turnover rates, and extended leave usages. Minimum staffing levels are not sustainable in environments where hyper-vigilance is the rule, not the exception.

The Oregon State Police Officers' Association appreciates the committee's time and openness to address this public safety matter. Please support our telecommunicators by creating an environment that is fair and equitable—pay parity.

Michael S. Iwai, Vice President
Oregon State Police Officers' Association