



OREGON STATE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

Oregon State Police Officers' Association

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Date: February 25, 2015
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill 2348

The Oregon State Police Officers Association endorses HB 2348, with clarifying amendments.

Current law prohibits carrying firearms in various locations, but includes exemptions for officers "while they are acting within the scope of employment." This language is vague and has been inconsistently enforced across the state.

Police officers are charged with protecting the public and enforcing the law, and they take this responsibility seriously whether they are on-duty or off. Many of our members feel responsible for carrying a concealed weapon with them at all times. Officers also cite concerns for personal safety, as they may be more likely to be targeted by the criminals that they interact with in the line of duty.

Our organization and our members support a clarification of the current law through HB 2348, which states that an off-duty officer can legally carry their weapon in public. We are also asking for an amendment to explicitly clarify that these protections extend to off-duty officers.

All police officers are highly trained in using their weapons judiciously and carefully and with highest regard for public safety. House Bill 2348 fills a gap in current law, and—properly amended—provides safe and common sense allowances for Oregon's law enforcement officers.

Respectfully,

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