



OREGON STATE FRATERNAL ORDER of POLICE

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Rod Edwards
President

March 17, 2015

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice Chair
Senator Ginny Burdick
Senator Sara Gelser
Senator Kim Thatcher

Chair Floyd Prozanski, Vice Chair Jeff Kruse, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for hearing our testimony.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Rod Edwards and I am the President of the Oregon State Fraternal Order of Police. My Organization represents Police Officers of all ranks throughout the State of Oregon. The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is the largest Police Association in the Nation with over 328,000 members. One of the main purposes of the FOP is to ensure the rights of Public Safety Officers are protected. My testimony is in support of Senate Bill 743.

This measure would provide Law Enforcement Officer of all ranks the protection and due process that they deserve. The additions in Section 1 help clarify the additions to Section 2 (L) and (m). The "Impeachment list" is often referred to as a "Brady List" (Brady v Maryland). This is a process to which District Attorneys are Constitutionally obligated to disclose certain information (mostly integrity issues) concerning specific Officers to the criminal defense attorneys. We understand the importance of holding Officers accountable for their actions. This measure does not affect the DA's obligations in any way. This measure also does not prevent dishonest police officers from being terminated.

The addition to Section 2, (L) (m), helps protect those Officers that have been cleared of any wrongdoing, through an investigation. It is my experience that Officers, even though cleared via investigation, are still put on the DA's "Impeachment List" and are subject to undue discipline or termination from their Law Enforcement Agencies. This change will ensure that only those Officers that are found to be in violation of certain laws of conduct will be dealt with through discipline and or termination.

The addition in Section 2 (b) "supervisor or manager" helps clarify that all public safety officers, not just the lower ranking officers, are entitled to representation while dealing with workplace issues that may lead to discipline. Again, this addition is for the protection of all public safety officers and not just the lower ranking.

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The addition in Section 2 (n) restricts agencies from using quotas to measure officer's performance. The public already believes that police agencies have quotas and that is why police officers are out issuing citations. I would say that most agencies do not have a quota system but there are some that do. These quotas do force officers to write citations more often than they would normally. This upsets the citizens and does not look favorably on Law Enforcement. This is important that citizens feel that if they are issued a citations, that it is for a violation itself as opposed to just satisfying a number in the officers book to make him/her look better in their commanders eyes.

For the above reasons and more, the Fraternal Order of Police is asking for your support in passing this Bill through your committee and onto your fellow Senators and Representatives. I am available for contact and more than willing to assist you in future endeavors as they relate to Public Safety matters.

Respectfully,

Rod Edwards

Rod Edwards
President, Oregon State FOP