



OREGON COALITION OF POLICE & SHERIFFS

March 19, 2015

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Oregon State Capitol, S-415
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bill 743 - support

Senator Prozanski,

The Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs are in favor of Senate Bill 743. This legislation would improve employment conditions and increase basic fairness for Oregon's law enforcement officers.

First, the legislation clarifies that "just cause" under certain disciplinary actions does not include unproven allegations. This protects officers from disciplinary measures that may ultimately stem from rumor or innuendo. Our police officers would have the same due process protections that many other Oregonians enjoy at work.

Officers' due process rights are also protected by a prohibition of discipline based on actions taken by a prosecutor (such as a district attorney). An officer's employment relationship is between that officer and the law enforcement agency. The prosecutor is not a party to that employment relationship and, therefore, actions taken at the discretion of a prosecutor should not directly impact an officer's employment status. If it did, the officer would be unable to challenge the prosecutor's actions in an employment context -- a situation that would severely limit officers' rights as employees.

This measure also ensures that officers have the right to a representative during disciplinary interviews. It further eliminates ambiguity over who is and who is not a "manager" or "supervisor". Additionally, the bill helps ensure an appropriate level of confidentiality in instances where no disciplinary action is taken.

We appreciate that this measure expressly prevents an officer's job performance from evaluation based on the number of citations issued as compared to other officers. This is not only an issue of fairness with regard to individual officers; it is a statement that public safety effectiveness needs to be measured in more than just the number of citations issued.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 743. The Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs urges your support of this measure.

Respectfully,

Daryl Turner
President, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs

Cc: Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Brian Boquist