

OREGON COUNCIL OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

Date: March 19, 2015

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Senate Bill 871 and 910

Thank you Committee Members. The OCPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important matter. While we appreciate the intention of the two mentioned bills, OCPA respectfully opposes them both because they would replace the current existing process that has been put in place throughout the state since 2007 with the introduction of Senate Bill 111.

The basis of Senate Bill 111 is that every county has a very thorough process in place to ensure an extremely thorough and un-biased investigation into a deadly force incident. These investigations always include at least one outside agency investigator and usually multiple outside agency investigators. An outside agency investigator is always the lead investigator to ensure an unbiased fact based investigation. The end result is a thorough and detailed investigation based on facts and not influenced by media sensation, personal interest or political pressure.

The Oregon District Attorneys, local government and local law enforcement along with Oregon State Police already have an excellent process in place. It is an extremely comprehensive, progressive model that was created long before recent events that have cast a light on this issue. I would respectfully ask for a no vote on these two bills. To do otherwise would suggest that the District Attorneys and various agencies have been negligent in the job they have been entrusted by the public to perform.

I would like to mention that no officer goes to work wanting to use deadly force. It only occurs as a result a dynamic and rapidly evolving situation. Having reviewed several officer involved shootings, I can tell you the event is always traumatic for the officer and the officers involved always feel they had no other option at the time such an event occurred.

Thank you for your time; lastly I have attached a web link to access the details of this process.

<http://www.doj.state.or.us/pdfs/deadlyforce.pdf>.