



To: **Members of the House Judiciary Committee**

From: **Kevin Campbell, Executive Director**
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: March 25th, 2015

Re: **Testimony in Favor of HB 3476** (Victim-Advocate Privilege)

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police in support of HB 3476.

- We support HB 3476, which would ensure confidentiality and privacy for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence seeking safety and support services.
- After an assault, shame and fear of disclosure keeps many victims from coming forward to make reports or access help and safety services.
- Without assurances of confidentiality, victims:
 - May not seek help from support services;
 - May not disclose the true nature of abuse or assault, compromising their safety and undermining effective interventions; and
 - May stay in unsafe situations and suffer more abuse or assault.
- Access to confidential services means victims can come forward for help and support without fear of retribution or embarrassment.
- The right to privacy is particularly critical for victims in small communities or on college campuses.
- Confidentiality and a statutory victim-advocate privilege will allow victims to take the time they need to consider their options and make the reporting or other choices that are right for them.

Law enforcement and groups dedicated to advocating on behalf of victims of domestic violence continue to work together to insure that victims of domestic violence are protected while perpetrators of abuse are arrested, prosecuted and held accountable. We believe that HB 3476 provides a vital tool that will result in security and protection for domestic violence victims as they consider their options and make informed choices.

Thank you for supporting HB 3476