

Date: May 14, 2015

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Testimony in favor of **House Bill 2357**

My name is Jeff Leighty. I am a retired Oregon State Police Senior Trooper. I was an OSP firearms instructor and SWAT member/instructor. I am a current HR 218 instructor certified by DPSST, an Oregon Concealed Carry instructor and a Certified Pistol Instructor. I am here as a retired law enforcement officer.

I believe that the smallest police agency in the United States provides training far beyond what the average concealed weapons permit holder has. One does not reach retirement from law enforcement without remaining qualified with your firearm, or without receiving continuous training on all law enforcement topics. Couple that with 25+ years of experience and you reach a level that few if any could obtain outside of law enforcement.

I have a friend who is an expert with firearms. He is honest and law abiding, a talented marksman and a concealed weapon permit holder. Given all that I know about my friend, if I needed help in a critical situation and could choose between him or any retired police officer, I would choose the retired cop EVERY TIME. I trust my friend, but he's never had the training or the experience 25 years in law enforcement provides.

Retired law enforcement officers are and asset not a liability. We are not requesting police powers. We only ask that our training and years of experience be valued and recognized by the State of Oregon.