



**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce**

**From: Sheriff Jason Myers, Marion County**  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Date: May 20, 2015**

**Re: HB 3025-A (Request for adoption of**  
**Dash A13 Amendments)**

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce. My name is Jason Myers and I am the Marion County Sheriff. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to request that the committee adopt the dash 13 amendment to HB 3025 A. The amendment would create an exemption from the provision of the bill for law enforcement agencies.

As you know, the law enforcement hiring process is lengthy and involves a number of steps that take place before an interview for any position occurs. Often a candidate pool for a police officer or deputy sheriff position can begin with a large number of applicants and end with just a few who are qualified to be certified and serve as a police officer in Oregon. Prior to an interview, candidates are tested to insure they can meet physical agility standards and reading, writing and mathematics standards and additional steps. The steps that occur before an interview are time consuming and costly to both the applicant and the agency. A law enforcement exemption to HB 3025 insures that candidates that cannot be certified in Oregon are not taken through these preliminary hiring steps. Here is additional detail regarding our reasons for requesting adoption of the Dash 13 amendments:

- Based on the A-engrossed version of HB 3025, a law enforcement entity would have to wait until an interview in order to look at the criminal background of finalists.
- State regulations already prohibit individuals from being certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) as law enforcement officers, corrections officers, or parole and probation officers if they have been convicted of a felony or any conviction involving the unlawful use, possession, delivery or manufacture of controlled substance, narcotic or

dangerous drug. See OAR 259-008-0010(4). In addition, a prospective applicant can be denied certification if they have been convicted of a significant number of criminal offenses listed in OAR 259-008-0010(4)(c)

- Criminal history prevents a person from accessing Federal databases that are critical to the work of a law enforcement officer including the Criminal Justice Information System.

It is more important than ever to retain high standards for hiring for our law enforcement officers in Oregon. Public Confidence in our justice system and our public safety officers demands that we carefully hire candidates who are qualified and well suited to a law enforcement career.

Thank you for considering adoption of the Dash 13 amendments to HB 3025 A.