

**From the office of:
Representative Wayne Krieger**



**From the office of:
Representative Jennifer Williamson**

To: Members of the Oregon House of Representatives

Date: May 5, 2015

Re: Support for HB 2571 A – Body Worn Cameras

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and City of Portland, please accept this letter of support for HB 2571 A. This measure allows police agencies to implement body-worn camera systems. This measure is the product of several months of work with a wide variety of stakeholders.

Why do we need HB 2571-A?

- Body-worn cameras provide an opportunity to strengthen officer/offender accountability and decrease use of force incidents. A recent study found a 40 percent reduction in total complaints for officers wearing cameras, and a 75 percent reduction in use of force complaints. This technology also has the benefit of protecting officers from unsubstantiated citizen complaints.
- We believe the amended bill strikes an appropriate balance between individual privacy and transparency and gives all jurisdictions the choice to implement this important tool. We strongly believe that body-worn cameras will increase trust and accountability in police work and potentially save lives.
- HB 2751-A carefully balances public access to information while preventing the kind of mass public records requests seen in jurisdictions in other states. The measure provides proper protections while ensuring the public has access to footage that is in the public interest.

What the bill does:

- Requires jurisdictions that choose to deploy body-worn cameras to have a policy
- Establishes baseline policy requirements for the use of body-worn cameras and provides local jurisdictions with flexibility to craft more detailed and restrictive policies.
- Provides an audio recording notice exemption for police officers using body worn cameras unless the officer has the ability to do so at the beginning of an interaction without causing jeopardy to the officer or to others and without unreasonably impairing a criminal investigation.
- Exempts body camera footage from public records disclosure, unless the public interest warrants release

HB 2571-A is a permissive bill that allows local jurisdictions to implement body-worn cameras legally and effectively. We urge your support.