



**CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON**



**Bureau of Police**

Charlie Hales, Mayor

Lawrence P. O'Dea III, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000 • Fax: 503-823-0342

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February 3, 2016

Oregon State Legislature  
Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
C/O Senator Mark Hass  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Appreciation for Senate Bill 1513

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

The Portland Police Bureau expresses its support of SB 1513, which authorizes counties to make an exemption on the assessed valuation of a home owned by the surviving spouse of a police officer killed in the line of duty.

Every law enforcement career begins with an oath of service to bear faithful allegiance to the State of Oregon, to uphold the laws of our great State, and to reflect the highest ideals of this profession. The unspoken, yet knowingly embraced aspect of this oath involves a police officer's courage to put oneself in harm's way for the protection and betterment of the community served.

Tragically, the number of police officers killed in the line of duty is on the rise, with a total of 129 officers lost nationwide in 2015. While each of these deaths make for a distinct and separate tragedy, all are connected to the non-routine nature of a day-to-day police work, albeit responding to a welfare call, issuing a citation, engaging in pursuit, conducting an investigation, or serving a warrant.

The loss of an officer is absolutely devastating to the public, the agency, and the friends and family of the involved member. The Police Bureau provides short-term and long-term support and emotional care to the immediate survivors of a member who is killed in the line of duty. However, line of duty deaths always show the impact law enforcement officials have on their communities. This measure is another demonstration of support the State of Oregon can impose to recognize those who paid the ultimate price and respect those they left behind.

Thank for your support of this matter during a short session, it is sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE P. O'DEA III  
Chief of Police