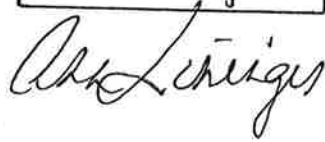
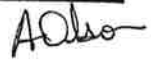


From the Desk of
Representative
Ann Lininger



From the Desk of
Representative
Andy Olson



Support for SB 1571B

To: Members of Oregon House of Representatives

From: Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 2, 2016

Members of the Oregon House of Representatives,

Please accept this letter of support for SB 1571B on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association.

As you know, a coalition chaired by Superintendent Rich Evans has worked aggressively to address the untested sexual assault kit issue including the completion of a statewide inventory, establishment of protocols and prioritization for testing of backlogged kits and the creation of victim notification recommendations. SB 1571B includes a number of key provisions designed to insure that Oregon eliminates the backlog of untested sexual assault kits as quickly as possible and moves forward with a statewide testing policy that avoids backlogs in the future.

SB 1571B appropriates \$1,500,000 for increased capacity in the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division (personnel and resources) necessary to begin the work of eliminating the untested kit backlog, to enter results into the CODIS system and to test new kits and cases that will continue to be submitted as the result of the policy in SB 1571B. The process of biological and DNA analysis of these kits combined with the rigorous process for entering the results into the FBI controlled CODIS system takes several hours. OSP Forensics will need additional resources in future biennia to insure that they can continue to serve the criminal justice system adequately. SB 1571B includes the following provisions:

1. Establishes a clear Oregon policy that all sexual assault kits that are not identified as anonymous will be tested.
2. Establishes a clear policy that anonymous kits will not be tested.

3. Requires police agencies to adopt policies by January 1, 2017 that insure that untested sexual assault kits are submitted to the Oregon State Police Forensics Services Division within defined time constraints, that police agencies provide OSP with basic investigatory information to assist testing prioritization, that police agencies retain sexual assault kit evidence for 60 years and that police agencies provide victims with a clear way to request information about the status of their kits.
4. Establishes "The Task Force on the Testing of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kits" with 16 members charged with continuing to look at testing policy and procedures.

SB 1571B will compliment a two million dollar grant that was awarded to the Multnomah County District Attorney's office for the purpose submitting 3000 of the backlogged sexual assault kits for testing in a private lab from three Oregon counties- Multnomah, Marion and Lane. This bill doesn't interfere with the Oregon State Police Crime Lab's scope of work within the grant partnership and will allow the Oregon State Police Crime Lab to review the results of the private lab's testing and to upload eligible profiles into CODIS. The Oregon State Police crime lab's scope of work in the grant partnership will not be affected by the bill's definition of "anonymous kit."

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The OACP and OSSA are committed to continuing our work with victim's advocates, survivors and other stakeholders to continue to address this important issue.



Kevin Campbell, Lobbyist

Oregon Association Chiefs of Police &

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Cell: 503-580-9485

kevin@victorygrp.com