



February 27, 2017

**TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Members of Senate Judiciary Committee**

**FR: Scott Dillon, President OCPA
Amanda Dalton, Lobbyist OCPA**
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RE: SB 352

On behalf of the Oregon Council of Police Associations (OCPA) and our 60 Oregon-based public safety labor organizations, including line enforcement officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, dispatchers, and other public safety support personnel **we urge your NO vote on SB 352.**

We believe SB 352 would impose a duplicative and hyper-technical notification requirement on public safety professionals and harm continuing efforts to strengthen relationships between officers and the community. By mandating officers to read a script for everyday interactions with the community, SB 352 would turn respectful encounters into adversarial confrontations. **SB 352 would not expand any of the rights that already protect Oregonians, but it would threaten community safety by unnecessarily escalating a wide variety of typical officer-community member interactions.** At a time when officers are doing more than ever to respond to the needs of our communities, SB 352 would hinder our efforts to appropriately communicate with every individual in every situation.

Officers are trained extensively and continuously throughout their careers on effective communication and de-escalation strategies. In addition, they face an unflagging obligation in every situation to honor civil liberties and respect the rule of law—an obligation that they believe is at the core of their mission. Every encounter an officer faces is unique and calls for nuanced judgments about how to safely and professionally perform their duties. **This is why one-size-fits-all approaches like SB 352 ultimately make it harder for officers to do their jobs, leading to increased tensions and hindering their efforts to build strong and lasting relationships with the community. SB 352 is a top-down mandate on officers when what we need most is bottom-up solutions such as increased support and training for officers.**

We are committed to safeguarding the rights and ensuring the safety of all community members. SB 352 would do nothing to advance the former, and would significantly impair the latter. For these reasons, the Oregon Council of Police Associations urges the committee to oppose SB 352.