



To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Kevin Campbell
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 27, 2017

Re: SB 642 - Testimony in Opposition

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to speak in opposition to SB 642. This legislation would prohibit an employer of a public safety officer from comparing the number of citations issued by the officer with the number of citations issued by another officer for purpose of discipline, investigation or job performance.

Before I speak to the provisions of SB 642, it is important for me to note that Oregon's Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are committed to enforce the laws that the legislature adopts and the Governor signs in keeping with our shared public safety motivation. Our policing leaders do not support an enforcement of laws based on quotas or for the purpose of generating revenue. Instead, we believe the appropriate focus of law enforcement efforts should be on seeking voluntary compliance with the ultimate goal to keep the public safe.

An example of this approach occurred this past week when the Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton announced a new "Car Care Program" in partnership with Advanced Auto Parts and Carquest Auto Parts. As a part of the program, OSP Troopers will be offering drivers stopped for a minor equipment violation with a voucher that assists with the cost of parts necessary to fix their vehicle. A vast majority of these violations are for blinkers, headlights and tail lights. When he introduced the program, Superintendent Hampton commented "Every OSP Trooper understands they can influence the trajectory of a person's life, which is why 'compassion' is a core value of our agency."

The Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs Association oppose SB 642. For the purposes of the discipline, investigation or job performance of an officer, agencies rely on a wide range of evaluation tools. SB 642 identifies one potential way of evaluating performance and prohibits agencies from making this type of comparison between officers. We are concerned about any legislation that limits the process of officer evaluation in these situations. Agencies are already constrained by collective bargaining agreements, employment law and best practice. They are also accountable to city and county governing bodies.

With regard to the specific practice identified in SB 642, we suspect that the focus is on an officer who doesn't issue as many citations as fellow officers. However, this law would also prevent agencies from addressing an officer who is aggressively issuing citations in comparison to other officers or citations that are disproportionately issued to persons of color or other impacted minority communities.

We encourage the committee to oppose SB 642