



March 2, 2017

TO: Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Members of House Judiciary Committee

FR: Scott Dillon, President, Oregon Council of Police Associations
Amanda Dalton, Lobbyist, Oregon Council of Police Associations

RE: HB 2613 and HB 2614

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 YES votes on HB 2613 and HB 2614. These bills represent an important step toward modernizing our impaired driving laws and making the roads safer for all Oregonians.

HB 2613 would update the offense of driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) to recognize that a range of drugs, not just alcohol and controlled substances, can impair driving abilities. Current law has strained officers' ability to prevent impaired driving, because it limits DUII offenses to alcohol, controlled substances, and inhalants only. This essentially immunizes impaired drivers whose impairment is the result of other types of drug use. By eliminating arcane distinctions between different kinds of intoxicants, HB 2613 would more effectively protect our streets from impaired drivers.

HB 2614 would expand the tools available to officers to accurately and efficiently determine whether a driver is impaired. Driving in Oregon is a privilege, and current law conditions that privilege on implied consent to submit to testing for blood alcohol content. But with the recent legalization of marijuana use under state law, the scope of implied consent has become too narrow to allow officers to effectively detect and deter impaired driving that endangers our communities. HB 2614 would solve this problem by modernizing implied consent to cover blood and breath testing for the presence of controlled substances and inhalants, in addition to alcohol. With controlled substances and inhalants posing increased threats to road safety, this is a necessary change to ensure that the privilege to drive includes the responsibility to avoid all forms of impairment.

Together, HB 2613 and HB 2614 will give officers better tools to enforce impaired driving laws and prevent drivers from endangering communities. **Most important, these bills would inevitably save lives by keeping impaired drivers off our roads.** For these reasons, OCPA strongly urges your YES votes on HB 2613 and HB 2613. We look forward to continuing to do our best to provide safe roads for all Oregonians.