



## **Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs**

### **Senate Bill 496 – OPPOSE**

The Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS) has followed the discussions this session surrounding grand jury proceedings with great interest.

The bulk of SB 496, which would provide for the recordation of grand jury proceedings, is meant to add to Oregonians' confidence in a fair and accountable criminal justice system. However, the provision providing for the release of records of inquiries into the "conduct of a public servant" (or "peace officers" as described in the 496-1 amendments) when there is no indictment is especially troubling, and we oppose that element — and therefore the current measure — in the strongest possible terms.

On its face, establishing a justice system with different rules based on a person's profession is a staggeringly dangerous precedent. On a more individual level, the release of a private record of a one-sided proceeding only in cases where an officer was found to have broken no laws seems to serve no purpose other than to satisfy a morbid curiosity.

For these reasons, the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs must oppose SB 496 as it is currently drafted, either with or without the 496-1 amendments.