

Lane County Sheriff's Office

Byron M. Trapp, Sheriff



March 15, 2017

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 519.

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Lane County Sheriff's Office is in support of Senate Bill 519 which allows for a polygraph test as condition of employment for pre-employment screening of law enforcement officers and exempts the polygraph test from disclosure under public records law.

Oregon is one of a handful of states that does not allow the use of polygraph tests in the pre-employment screening process for sworn officers. The test serves as an important tool that agencies such as the Lane County Sheriff's Office could be utilizing to evaluate the suitability of applicants for sworn law enforcement positions.

This legislation does not mandate the use of polygraph in pre-employment process, but allows for it to be subject to the collective bargaining process with the various bargaining units across the state. In addition, the use of the polygraph test is allowed only during the pre-employment process and no other aspect of a law enforcement officer's career.

Law enforcement agencies in Oregon and the west coast are facing an unprecedented shortage in staffing. Any tool that assists law enforcement in ensuring that only the finest applicants are hired to serve our communities is a benefit to law enforcement and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your work on this important issue and please support the passage of Senate Bill 519 today. Oregon Law Enforcement has been waiting for a number of years to utilize the tool and without action we will miss out on an opportunity to hire only the very best candidates.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron Trapp".

Sheriff Byron Trapp