



April 5, 2017

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

**RE: Eugene SUPPORTS SB 1025-The Officer Safety Bill**

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene supports the passage of Senate Bill 1025, known as the Officer Safety Bill, which would extend existing protections contained in ORS for first responders, to law enforcement officers. The protections included within SB 1025 will provide those officers which, in the line of duty, become exposed to bodily fluids, to rapid screening of the exposed fluids for the presence of infectious diseases such as HIV or Hepatitis.

Without authorization to test the source subject, there is a delay in obtaining timely source results which inhibit the ability to properly treat the officer, increasing the risk of developing a disease. The current practice for officers that have been exposed to bodily fluids, is to begin an intensive HIV prophylactic medicine regimen to reduce the risk of contracting the disease. This medicine regime can make the officer extremely ill, resulting in significant time away from work. This is not only an extremely stressful event for the officer, but it impacts personnel scheduling, and is a significant financial impact to the City.

The current HIV prophylactic medication regimen exceeds \$3,500. As a self-insured municipality, this cost is borne through our own Workers' Compensation Program, as is any continuing costs should the officer develop a disease from the exposure. A few years ago, the City conducted an extensive benchmarking study that reviewed Workers' Compensation claims for municipal law enforcement officers throughout Oregon. Over 11% of the claims involved body fluid exposures, indicating that this issue impacts cities across the state.

We ask that you support SB 1025 and extend existing protections to our law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Jamie Iboa, Risk Claims Manager (Submitted Electronically).