



Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund

Dedicated to the wellness and safety of Oregon's first responders and their families

HCR 15 – Trooper William Levinson
For House Rules Committee hearing on February 16, 2017

Chair Burdick

My name is Mary Nunnenkamp. I am the Chair of the Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund. This board consists of Malheur County Sheriff Brian Wolfe, representing the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, Retired Hubbard Police Chief David Dryden, representing Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Linn County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Chris Houdek, representing the Oregon Peace Officers Association and Mr. Jim Whitehead, parent survivor of Multnomah County Sheriff's Reserve Mark Whitehead and director of the Oregon Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors. I am also a proud retiree of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am honored to represent the line of duty death survivors who are seeking to have their loved one remembered through the Oregon Fallen Officer Memorial Highway Sign program established through the passage of HB3039 in 2011. I've had the pleasure of knowing Trooper Levinson's widow Neva and their children Pat and Rod for the past 8 years.

I've spent time with Mrs. Levinson and her family and have been the lucky recipient of their stories. You heard Lt. Boyd share her work to get survivors benefits. We credit her for opening doors for all survivors that have followed. Her commitment to help others even 67 years after her husband died is a testament to her. She remains an inspiration to us all. Several years ago, I asked her what value she thought she brought to other survivors of a line of duty death. She told me, I hope I show them they can continue on. Neva is unable to be with us, today we have Trooper Levinson's daughter Pat and her husband Lyn.

When the law enforcement community experiences a line of duty death, we make a promise that is very important to us. We promise to never forget. We promise to support our survivors for as long as they need us. These signs represent one more way for us to keep that promise.

I'm often asked about how the decision is made for the final placement of the sign. That very personal decision is made by the family within the rules and regulations of the Oregon Department of Transportation. The Levinson family has chosen SR126 near Florence as the sign's final location.

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund is proud to purchase these signs to eliminate any expense to the state, the law enforcement agency, or the family.

I urge a yes vote on HCR 15.

Mary Nunnenkamp, Chair – Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund