



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Dennis Linthicum
Senator James Manning Jr.

*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SB 5
FEBRUARY 2, 2017*

Chair Prozanski, members of the Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem.

I am here to testify in support of SB 5.

I testified to this Committee about this bill's LC draft during Legislative Days in December, so I will try to keep this brief.

As you know, I follow sports. Closely. Six years ago I was troubled by the affects unscrupulous athlete agents were having on college athletics

An extensive expose in Sports Illustrated outlined the problem: some agents were prematurely luring college athletes into contracts with gifts and cash. As a result, some athletes were ruled ineligible. Coaches who facilitated these illicit contact were dismissed and banned from coaching in the college ranks.

Working with knowledgeable members of the athletics department staffs at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, I introduced Senate Bill 5. We were unable to pass it in 2011, but in 2013 the Legislature passed a similar measure, House Bill 3296, which cracked down on agents exploiting young athletes.

SB 5 comes at the request of the Uniform Law Commission and is known as the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act (RUAAA). It would modernize Oregon's law for the ever-evolving sports commercial marketplace.

I will let Lane Shetterly, my former colleague in the House, and Jeff Hawkins, or "Hawk" as he's known on campus, from the University of Oregon give you the details of this bill.

I believe the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act is an improvement on Oregon's current law and ask for your support.