



To: Members of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

From: Kevin Campbell
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 14, 2017

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2643

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association in support of HB 2643. We are pleased to join Oregon Health Sciences University and the broader medical community in recommending a change to child safety seat law to require children younger than two to be in a rear-facing car seat.

The research and corresponding best practice is clear. For children under the age of two, rear-facing car seats offer the best protection in the event of a crash. For our police officers and deputy sheriffs, crashes involving the injury or death of a young child are traumatic. Where the research tells us that there is a standard that will improve child safety, law enforcement is eager to support adjustments to the law.

From an enforcement perspective, this change to the standard will not be difficult for officers to implement and it is in keeping with our public safety mission. Officers take their role as part of the education process seriously and agencies throughout the state conduct clinics in order to help parents understand the law and to properly install their child safety seats.

We encourage your support for HB 2643