



To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

Date: February 5th, 2018

Re: Support for HB 4056 – Educational scholarship program for the children of public safety personnel who die or suffer disability

Chair Barker 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 to offer testimony in support of HB 4056 with adoption of the dash-one amendment. Our law enforcement leaders seek to do everything possible to insure that our police officers return home safely from their shifts and they support every effort to care for the families of officers who suffer death or disability while serving our communities.

Each and every day, our first responders leave their families and homes to protect ours. They do so with the full recognition that their safety may be placed at risk to insure that our communities and the most vulnerable of our citizens are secure. Our public safety heroes are not the only ones who sacrifice to make our protection and safety possible. The families of our first responders live with the constant reality that their loved one may not return home safe from their heroic work. When a police officer, reserve officer, parole and probation officer, corrections officer or fire service professional dies or suffers severe disability, the heartbreak their families experience is incalculable. When these unthinkable tragedies occur, all of us who benefit from the work of our public safety professionals owe more to these families than we can ever repay.

HB 4056 seeks to insure that the children of public safety professionals who make the ultimate sacrifice or that are disabled can count on the resources necessary to attend college when they reach the age to do so. The measure appropriately funds the scholarship program created in the bill from civil forfeiture proceeds and it seeks to reduce complexity of the process and the burden on survivors by streamlining the steps necessary to access these educational scholarship funds.

We urge the committee to pass HB 4056 with the dash-1 amendment and appreciate your consideration of this important educational benefit for the children of police officers and other public safety personnel.