



**To: Members of the Joint Interim Committee On The
First Special Session of 2020**

From: Sheriff Terry Rowan, President
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: June 23, 2020

**Re: Testimony re HB 4207 (LC 78) – Police Misconduct Database
Legislation**

**Good afternoon Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek and members of the Joint Interim
Committee On The First Special Session of 2020,**

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, please accept this testimony regarding HB 4207, a measure designed to increase the transparency of police officer misconduct records. Law enforcement leaders in Oregon are committed to working with the legislature to ensure that the results of certification proceedings are public including the disclosure of the law enforcement officer, agency and disposition information. We are also committed to work on further transparency efforts by ensuring that misconduct that impacts the public trust in policing is made available and addressed by the proper authority. We share the same values, that law enforcement is held to a higher standard and must be morally fit to perform their important public safety roles.

We offer the following language for your consideration in order to align terminology and to ensure that the cases that go to DPSST that result in a certification proceeding would be made public with disclosure of the officer, department and disposition information regardless of whether the misconduct results in decertification or not. The following language is designed to replace the current language in HB 4207:

SECTION 16. (1) The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training shall establish a statewide database of public safety officer certification records.

(2) The department will make available online information about all certification proceedings undertaken by the department to deny, suspend or revoke the certification of a public safety officer under ORS 181A.630 during the preceding 12 months, including but not limited to:

- (a) The name of the officer;
- (b) The law enforcement unit at which the officer was employed;
- (c) A description of the facts underlying the disciplinary proceeding; and
- (d) The outcome of the department's certification review.

(3) The department shall submit an annual report to an appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly including the number of complaints alleging misconduct by a public safety officer that would, if proven, constitute the violation of a certification standard received by the department, categorized by law enforcement unit.

Thank you for your consideration