



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 4203 (LC 83) – Chokehold 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 4203, a measure designed to prohibit the use of techniques that apply pressure to the neck of a person that results in the impairment of a person's airflow or blood flow.

The vast majority of Oregon law enforcement has abandoned training on chokeholds and have instituted policies prohibiting the use of chokeholds as a control hold. With this being said, we offer the following conceptual considerations that we believe will address concerns about the use of chokeholds by law enforcement officers: We recommend that the following provisions be included in a final draft of the measure:

- Define "chokehold" to mean any intentional restraint of a person's neck which results in the impairment of airflow due to compression on the throat or trachea or the impairment of blood flow due to compression on the throat or trachea or the impairment of blood flow due to compression of the carotid artery. Allow an exception when an officer is rendering medical aid to a person.
- Prohibit training on the use of chokeholds by law enforcement officers but allow training for officers to defend against a chokehold.

- Prohibit the use of chokeholds except for deadly use of force situations or where an officer is coming to the aid of someone who is in imminent danger of injury due to the action of another.

Thank you for your consideration