



To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Sheriff Craig Myers, President
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
Chief Kris Allison, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
Central Point Police Department

Date: April 7th, 2019

Re: Support for SB 576 A - "Kaylee's Law"

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 576 A on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. The tragedy that brings this measure to you today and the concerns the bill seeks to address are not limited to the City of Bend. These dynamics exist throughout the state.

Let me begin by making it clear that in most areas of the State of Oregon, law enforcement enjoys a strong partnership with the colleges and universities that are located in the communities we serve. We work closely with campus public safety in order to insure that students on campus are safe and that our partnership results in a smooth response when a law enforcement response is needed. We believe that the provisions included in SB 576 will result provide important clarity, address concerns and result in better public safety. I would like to highlight a few important provisions in SB 576 A:

It's critically important that the uniforms that state troopers, deputy sheriffs and police officers wear and the vehicles they drive are clearly distinguishable by the public from campus safety personnel. The public rightfully expects that a person who is looks like a police officer because of their uniform and their vehicle have the necessary training to provide assistance at a time of need. The 16 weeks of basic and mandatory maintenance training we provide our law enforcement officers is extremely specific based on a detailed job task analysis SB 576 A insures that campus safety officers, who have limited training and authority, don't wear uniforms or drive vehicles that make them look like a police officer. These provisions in the measure are not only important to students and members of the public, but also to police officers who must be able determine if the person in uniform next to them during a critical incident is a fully trained police officer.

SB 576 A insures that campus safety vehicles are distinctly different from police vehicles by prohibiting the use of components commonly associated with police cars, such as red and blue light bars, push bumpers and internal cages. These vehicle features are not appropriate or necessary in order for campus public safety to carry out their mission on campus. Again, when a member of the public sees a car that looks like a police vehicle, they rightfully expect that the person operating it is a fully trained police officer.

SB 576 A increases the safety of students, staff and visitors on campus by requiring a criminal background check prior to hiring a campus safety officer. The bill allows for better information sharing between law enforcement and higher education in order to improve the ability to assess the suitability of applicants and to prevent the hiring of someone who shouldn't be trusted with this important work. Further, the bill facilitates the hiring of former law enforcement officers who have a demonstrated history in the profession.

Thank you for supporting this important measure and for the opportunity testify today.