



## **STATEMENT OF **SUPPORT**: HB 4203-4 (PROHIBITIONS ON CHOKEHOLDS)**

**To:** Joint Committee on the First Special Session of 2020  
**From:** Michael Selvaggio, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs  
**Date:** June 24, 2020

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Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee:

For the record, my name is Michael Selvaggio, representing the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS). ORCOPS supports HB 4203 as amended by the 4203-4 amendments, which seeks to ban chokeholds except in cases of deadly force.

In those rare circumstances where an officer is in a situation where deadly force becomes justified under Oregon law, it is done so in order to stop an imminent threat to the life of a civilian or an officer. Sometimes in these cases, that imminent threat takes the form of a suspect attempting to gain control of the officer's own service weapon, or in a form where the officer's weapon is not accessible without the officer placing themselves or others at risk.

The 4203-4 amendments deftly navigates these concerns, and allows for these hopefully rare but dire instances. ORCOPS urges your support of the amendments and the resulting measure.