



**To: Members of the Committee on the
First Special Session of 2020**

From: Sheriff Tim Svenson, 1st Vice President
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Chief Jim Ferraris, President
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: June 25, 2020

Re: Testimony re HB 4203-4 – Chokehold Legislation

Good morning Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek and members of the 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 4203-4, 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 have abandoned training on chokeholds and have instituted policies prohibiting the use of chokeholds as a control hold. We are in support of HB 4203 with adoption of the dash 4 amendment.

With the speed at which these measures were crafted and the speed the special session is moving, there are pieces of this measures that may have unintended consequences. We would ask, that if unintended consequences are discovered, we be allowed to suggest adjustments to policy in future sessions.

We would also like to ask the committee to consider removing the emergency clause from this measure. While we agree on the urgency of implementing this public policy, it will take time for law enforcement agencies to create and deliver training on this policy to our Law Enforcement Professionals across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.