



STATEMENT: HB 2928-1 (LAW ENFORCEMENT TOOLS)

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Michael Selvaggio, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs
Date: February 2, 2021

Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Michael Selvaggio, representing the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS) regarding HB 2928, dealing with the use of munitions and other law enforcement tools. This testimony is to the 2928-1 amendments. While we have not had time to fully digest the amendments, we appreciate the Committee's careful deliberation.

We would make two suggestions to the Committee that we hope are seen as technical adjustments to ensure the workability of the measure's provisions:

1. Define "emergency medical services".

It is important to be specific about this designation, as nearly anyone can claim to be medical personnel without any actual competency. An unqualified self-styled medic can be a danger those in need of medical assistance if they appear to be receiving assistance from someone not qualified to help, or even harmed further if, for example, someone with a potential neck injury is moved and jostled by a crowd claiming to be providing "medical services."

2. Ensure that mandated actions are performed safely.

The measure makes several requirements of law enforcement officers which are perfectly reasonable under most circumstances, but does not allow any leeway if the circumstances do not allow those requirements to be fulfilled safely. For example, the requirement that officers "Shall ensure that emergency medical services can reach injured persons," may be difficult to safely comply with in an unstable situation. We would suggest appending these requirements with "... as long as it is tactically feasible and safe to do so," or other similar qualifier.

We look forward to continued deliberation on these items in the hopes that we reach a measure that ORCOPS can affirmatively support.