



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: June 7th, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support – Juvenile Interviews

Chair Smith Warner, Co-Chairs Holvey and Drazan and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 418.

We want to begin by thanking Senator Gorsek for taking a collaborative and thoughtful approach to this measure and for his willingness to consider alternative language to address concerns we had with the bill as introduced. We believe the A-engrossed version of HB 418 accomplishes the intent of the measure without creating unintended consequences.

Over the last several years, Oregon law enforcement established a statewide workgroup that was tasked with creating a policy framework for law enforcement agencies based on research and national best practices with regard to juvenile interviews. SB 418-A is in keeping with the model policy that was developed by the OACP/OSSA Juvenile Policy Work Group. It appropriately safeguards the rights of juveniles and reflects our shared commitment to interview processes that result in accurate facts and information and just outcomes.

Oregon law provides significant constitutional safeguards for youth who are interviewed in connection with a criminal investigation. All statements in a criminal case can be subject to a motion to suppress filed on behalf of the youth by their attorney. The Trial Court assesses each situation on a case-by-case basis and decides, based on all the surrounding circumstances, whether the statements were free and voluntarily provided, and that law enforcement did not act in some manner to overcome a reasonable person's free will in providing a statement. We believe that SB 418-A reinforces and builds on these safeguards.

Thank you for your consideration.