

HELLO. MY NAME IS ROD HOGAN. I AM A RETIRED POLICE OFFICER FROM CALIFORNIA AND NOW WORK AS A POLICE/FIRE DISPATCHER FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY. THIS IS MY TESTIMONY IN REGARDS TO SB425. IN MY EXPERIENCE AS A POLICE OFFICER AND A "FIRST RESPONDER", MUCH OF MY JOB WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR NOT WITHOUT DISPATCHERS. DISPATCHERS, 99 PERCENT OF THE TIME, ARE ACTUALLY THE TRUE FIRST RESPONDERS. THE ONLY OTHER 1 PERCENT IS FROM OFFICER SELF INITIATED ACTIVITY. EVERY CALL THAT GOES TO POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRE RIGS GOES THROUGH DISPATCH FIRST. EVERY CALL FROM A PARKING ISSUE TO SUICIDE TO HOMICIDE. WITHOUT DISPATCHERS GETTING THE FIRST VITAL PIECES OF INFORMATION, MOST CASES WOULD GO UNSOLVED OR BE HANDLED POORLY. NOT ONLY WITH HANDLING AND CREATING CALLS FOR SERVICE, DISPATCHERS ALSO PROVIDE EVERY PIECE OF OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION THAT PROTECTS THEIR SAFETY AND LIVES. THERE WAS A CALL THAT I WENT TO, WHERE A SUBJECT WAS REFUSING TO LEAVE A HOME. TO ME, IT WAS A REGULAR/STANDARD CALL. MY DISPATCHERS RAN THE SUBJECT WITH THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AND FOUND OUT THE HE HAD A WARRANT FOR MURDER. MY ENTIRE TACTICS CHANGED FROM THAT POINT ON INTO THAT CALL. NOW BEING ON THE DISPATCHER SIDE, I REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT DISPATCHERS ARE, IF THEIR NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY. ALSO WHEN IT COMES TO TRAMATIC INCIDENTS, I HAVE REALIZED THAT DISPATCHERS SUFFER AS WELL. AS A POLICE OFFICER, I SAW A LOT OF TRAMATIC THINGS. I FAILED TO REALIZE THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T SEE IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE NOT EFFECTED BY IT. DISPATCHERS HEAR THE SCREAMS, THE CRYING, THE YELLING FROM PEOPLE BEING STABBED, COMMITTING SUICIDE AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE DROWNED OR DIED FROM SIDS. I HAVE EXPERIENCED ALL OF THIS ON BOTH SIDES. SOME STATES HAVE ALREADY CLASSIFIED DISPATCHERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS AND I BELIEVE OREGON SHOULD FOLLOW SUIT.