

VIRGLE J OSBORNE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2
DOUGLAS COUNTY



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OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97301

Testimony in support of HB 3148

February 28, 2023

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Wallan, Vice-Chair Andersen, and Members of the Committee,

I come before you today presenting House Bill 3148. I would like to provide some background on me and the connection I have to this bill.

I have served as a member of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue (SAR) team for roughly 20 years, with many of those years as a team leader. I have been involved in countless searches, recoveries, and training operations.

Many hours of volunteer time are spent every year looking for lost individuals. Often our degree of success comes from the amount of "primary information" we have when beginning a search. In other words, when we are called upon to find a missing person, we go into our information gathering period before we can ever put "boots on the ground."

The information we get during and prior to a search can mean the difference between life and death in the outcome of the individual we are looking for.

While our Sheriff's department supplies us with every tool at their disposal in our search, often just a little more information can put the search in the right direction for a positive outcome. I want to assure you a true and meaningful search operation looks nothing like you see on TV.

Douglas County is 5,134 square miles in total area. We range from the coast at Reedsport to Crater Lake Park to the east. Without solid information on a person's direction of travel or possible motives for leaving, it is nearly impossible to find a person during the critical first 48 hours of their disappearance.

House Bill 3148 gives our law enforcement and SAR teams another critical tool to save lives.

On the wall of our training facility, a simple verse is written – *"These things we do so others may live."*

Please help us help others by adding this valuable and much needed tool to our fight to save lives. I respectfully urge your support for HB 3148.

Thank you,

Virgle Osborne
State Representative, House District 2

Office: 900 Court St NE H-375, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1402
Rep.VirgleOsborne@oregonlegislature.gov