



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Ty Hanlon, Chief of Police
City of Sherwood
Hanlont@sherwoodoregon.gov

Date: February 12, 2024

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4147

Chair Neron and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Ty Hanlon and I am the Chief of Police for the city of Sherwood. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to offer testimony in support of HB 4147.

It is unlawful for drivers and motorists to pass a school bus on either side while the stop-arm is extended, and the red lights are flashing. HB 4147 would permit an education provider to operate a video recording device for the purpose of recording persons who fail to stop for bus safety lights. The bill also enables law enforcement to issue a citation to those who fail to stop based on the recording data. Oregon law already allows a bus driver to report a violation to law enforcement and a citation can be issued based on the report. This bill would go one step further, joining at least 24 other states who have already passed this legislation.

According to the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) 2019 Stop Arm survey, "130,963 school bus drivers reported that 95,319 vehicles passed their buses illegally on a single day during the 2018-19 school year." For law enforcement officers, safety is a top priority, and we believe that creating accountability for those who place the safety of students at risk is important.

This bill will also assist in mitigating current challenges law enforcement is experiencing when working to ensure this safety is maintained. First, law enforcement is currently experiencing a workforce crisis that is limiting law enforcement presence and traffic patrol resources. In addition, traditional law enforcement for school bus stop arm violations can pose unnecessary risks to officers, students and other drivers, especially on busy roads or in adverse weather conditions. There is often no place for officers to safely observe violations and pull over motorists without creating the potential for additional risk. Photo enforcement creates a deterrence to school bus stop arm violations and eliminates the need for officers to physically stop vehicles.

HB 4147 would provide an additional tool to hold motorists accountable for violations of the law that put students at risk and we believe the law will result in better awareness of the law and decreased violations.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.