



To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Kevin Campbell
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 28, 2019

**Re: Support for HB 2750 – Trauma-Informed Law Enforcement Policies
and Practices.**

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to support the passage of HB 2750.

I want to begin by thanking Representative Marsh. She reached out to us early to discuss her concepts and objectives and treated law enforcement as a partner throughout the process of developing the legislation that is before you today. She took into consideration our recommendations, our limitations and perhaps most importantly our desire to embrace and implement best practice as it evolves so we continue to create the best system of justice possible. We believe the provisions of HB 2750 are crafted in a way that gives us the best opportunity to build on our efforts to implement trauma-informed best practices that are survivor-centered and offender focused. The goal is to create a safe and consistent system that gives victims the confidence to bring cases forward. We understand that law enforcement interactions with both victims and offenders are a critical part of making this possible.

HB 2750 tasks the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, in consultation with the Department of Justice, with the responsibility for developing practices for law enforcement agencies when interacting with persons who have experienced trauma. Over the past several years, the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association has partnered with DPSST to develop best practice policy frameworks on a number of important issues including eyewitness identification, law enforcement response to behavioral health crisis, officer-involved domestic violence, body-worn cameras and more. Instead of a model policy that establishes a "one size fits all" approach, the policy framework is designed to identify policy options that retain best practice while recognizing that flexibility is necessary to address

agency size, available resources, geographic location and community needs. In Oregon, we have 64 police agencies with less than 10 sworn officers where the police chief pulls shifts and responds to calls for service in addition to managing the daunting challenge of running their departments. A policy that can be implemented in a large police agency may not work in a small department and vice-versa. The approach included in HB 2750 recognizes these realities.

HB 2750 also recognizes the importance of having adequate resources in order to assist agencies to implement new policies and best practice. We are appreciative of the provisions in the bill that create a grant program for law enforcement agencies and local governments to fund training for groups and agencies that interact with persons who have experienced trauma. Oregon has the lowest number of police officers (city, county and state) per 1000 population in the United States. At the same time, the increasing complexity of policing along with constrained budget resources make additional requirements on law enforcement agencies challenging.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2750.