



To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Chief Jerry Moore, Salem Police Department
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: March 12th, 2019

Re: Support for SB 577 – Hate Crime Task force Legislation

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Jerry Moore and I am the Chief of Police for the City of Salem. 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 SB 577.

I recently had the opportunity to serve on the Attorney General's Hate Crime Task force representing law enforcement from throughout the state. It was an honor to serve and listen to the thoughts, views and ideas which my fellow task force members shared.

I recognize the concerns individuals and groups have when they feel they have been targeted because of their race, gender or ethnicity, among other things. As a law enforcement professional I also recognize my job is to not only arrest the perpetrator of those crimes, but just as importantly, provide comfort to people who have been victimized, find resources to help them recover, and make them feel safe.

Frankly, it has been my experience that those who have been victimized focus on their own personal safety and how they are cared for more than whether someone is arrested.

SB 577 takes into account those fears and concerns, and provides improvements regarding the way we investigate, resolve and provide support to people who feel they have been a victim of a hate crime. I have had the opportunity to work with groups whose sole goal was to provide those services and I feel the changes suggested to our current bias crime laws provides just that.

Not every incident reported to the police as a bias crime is enforceable as one. When this is the case, people feel law enforcement is uncaring or not taking their situation seriously and that is a difficult position for law enforcement to be in. This bill provides law enforcement with the opportunity not only to address a person's concerns, but also to provide a resource that hasn't

been available previously. That alone makes this bill important for our community.

My colleagues on the task force have or will provide testimony much more powerful than I, but I want to assure you the bill you are considering is supported by law enforcement. We believe it improves our ability to assist our community and guide them towards resources which will make them feel they are cared for and listened to.

Thank you for your consideration