

March 3, 2021

To: Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Sen. Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

From: Paul Terdal, Citizen; resident of NW Portland, SD18

Re: Support for SB418

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

I am writing to you today as a citizen, and as the father of two teenage boys, to express my support for SB418.

As I raise my children to be good citizens of this country, I want to tell them that they should trust and respect police officers, and to be grateful to them for their service to their state and this country.

So I was very disappointed to reach the testimony from the Oregon District Attorney's Association in opposition to SB418, which read in part:

*The law does currently allow law enforcement officers to make inaccurate statements to youth who are being investigated for a crime, to possibly elicit a response. Such as, "We found your DNA on the victim" or "We found your fingerprints on the window where the suspect entered the apartment," or "The ballistics from a gun found in your car matches the bullets recovered at the scene" ...*

I want my children to know that they can trust the police – but this evening, I had to share the District Attorney's Association letter with them, and caution them that police are – for now – legally allowed to lie to them, and make up false stories linking them to crimes, and that they should never agree to talk to the police unless one of their parents is with them.

America is better than this – police shouldn't lie to children. Period.

Please pass SB418.

Sincerely,

Paul Terdal

Citizen and Father