



Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund

Dedicated to the wellness and safety of Oregon's first responders and their families

HCR 20 Honoring Trooper Dale Benjamin Courtney
For Senate Rules Committee hearing on May 6, 2021

Chairman Wagner and Committee Members:

My name is Erin Edelen Kutter. I have been given the honor of acting as the family liaison for the Courtney family on behalf of the Oregon Fallen Officer Highway Memorial Sign program through the Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Trust Fund.

The Oregon Fallen Officer Memorial Highway Sign program has created a meaningful way for fallen officers to be remembered as well as continue to show support for the family that was left behind. I have had the great pleasure of getting to know the Courtney family and it is my honor to represent them as we seek to have their loved one remembered through the establishment of a highway memorial sign.

These highway memorial signs help to expand the means in which we are able to remember our fallen Oregon officers and to continue their stories. With their names displayed on these signs, it is the hope that it will spark curiosity of people passing by to take the time to research them and learn more about the amazing individuals that they were. Through the remembrance of our past and the service and sacrifices made by others, we are able to learn and persevere to better our future generations of law enforcement officers.

When an officer is killed in the line of duty, it is not felt by just their family and agency, or the law enforcement community, it is a ripple effect that is felt by all in the communities and even the state in which that officer served. It is in these times of grief and pain that the law enforcement community promises to never forget and it is a promise that is refused to be forgotten. It was the officer's calling to serve; it is an honor for all to remember.

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Trust Fund is diligent at its work in remembering and honoring our fallen officers and their families. Through the sales of the Fallen Public Safety Officer License plate, the board of directors is able to allocate funds within their budget in order to purchase these highway memorial signs. This allocation of funds eliminates the financial impact to the state, the Oregon State Police and the Courtney family in order to have a sign erected honoring Trooper Dale Benjamin Courtney.

I enthusiastically ask for your support for HCR 20 to help continue the story of Fallen Trooper Dale Benjamin Courtney. It is an honor to submit this written testimony and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Erin Edelen Kutter
Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Trust Fund's Highway Memorial Sign program