



**OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE**  
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



**OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**  
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**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Rules**

**From:** Kevin Campbell, Executive Director  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Jason Myers, Executive Director  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Date:** May, 4 2021

**Re: Testimony in Support – Juvenile Interviews**

**Chair Wagner and members of the committee,**

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP) and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 418.

We want to begin by thanking Senator Gorsek for taking a collaborative and thoughtful approach to this measure and for his willingness to consider alternative language to address concerns we had with the bill as introduced. We believe the A-engrossed version of HB 418 accomplishes the intent of the measure without creating unintended consequences.

Over the last several years, Oregon law enforcement established a statewide workgroup that was tasked with creating a policy framework for law enforcement agencies based on research and national best practices with regard to juvenile interviews. SB 418 is in keeping with the model policy that was developed by the OACP/OSSA Juvenile Policy Work Group. It appropriately safeguards the rights of juveniles and reflects our shared commitment to interview processes that result in accurate facts and information and just outcomes.

Oregon law provides significant constitutional safeguards for youth who are interviewed in connection with a criminal investigation. All statements in a criminal case can be subject to a motion to suppress filed on behalf of the youth by his or her attorney. The Trial Court assesses each situation on a case-by-case basis and decides, based on all the surrounding circumstances, whether the statements were free and voluntarily provided, and that law enforcement did not act in some manner to overcome a reasonable person's free will in providing a statement. We believe that SB 418-A reinforces and builds on these safeguards.

Thank you for your consideration.