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May 11, 2021

To: House Committee on Rules; [others]

Re: **I OPPOSE [HB 2486]**...*The less number of people on the scene of an emergency the better.*

Police and Fire Department personnel don't mix well with journalists on scenes of emergencies.

Excerpt from [HB 2486] states, "SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, ordinance, policy or order to the contrary, any official of a public body, as defined in ORS 174.109, **must grant credentialed or documented representatives of news media organizations access to scenes of emergencies or emergency police activity that are otherwise closed to the public.**"

"...(5) For purposes of this section, **a scene of emergency or emergency police activity includes, but is not limited to, a fire, flood, earthquake, explosion, accident or crime scene.**"

"...SECTION 2. (1) **The Department of State Police shall develop the following guidelines for implementing section 1 of this 2021 Act:** (a) Press credentialing and documentation establishing that individuals are news media representatives; (b) When circumstances warrant denial of access on grounds of compromising the safety of emergency response employees, impeding the response of emergency equipment or personnel or impeding the investigation of the incident that constitutes the scene of emergency or emergency police activity; (c) When public bodies, as defined in ORS 174.109, may require news media representatives to use personal protective equipment, and circumstances when particular types of personal protective equipment may be required; and (d) When public bodies should conduct safety briefings for representatives of the news media and the recommended content of safety briefings. (2) The department shall consult with local law enforcement and local fire department personnel, representatives of local governing bodies and representatives of news media organizations in developing guidelines under this section. (3) The department shall ensure that adopted guidelines are broadly disseminated to state and local public bodies and officials."

***There is "No" provision dealing with ingress and egress to private property without written consent from the property owner involved in the emergency situation.**

*Is property owner liable to injuries to news media personnel who trespass upon owner's property?

*Are the members of the News media responsible for injuries caused by their negligence in the hot pursuit of a story? For example, leaving gates open and frightened livestock bolts out of confined spaces? Or, breaking their leg by climbing over a fence in a hurry to watch someone slowly burn to death?

*The Oregon State Police and or any and all other Police Agencies within the State of Oregon are not financially equipped to deal with "baby sitting" journalists in emergency areas so the "News at 11:00 p.m." has a "sensationalized issue" grabbing someone's attention until the weather report is broadcasted.

[HB 2486] is the work product of the House Representative "space cadets" and should be discarded with prejudice.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ David S. Wall

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