



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
JOIN . SERVE . PROTECT .

PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: **Members of the House Committee on Human Services**

From: Kevin Campbell, Government Affairs Representative
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police & Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
kevin@victorygrp.com

Date: May 12, 2021

Re: **Testimony re SB 386 – Juvenile Interview Parental Notification**

Chair Williams, Vice-Chairs Leif and Ruiz and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 386-A. I want to begin by thanking Senator Dembrow and Senator Lieber for their willingness to engage us in a conversation about the original measure, consider our concerns and work with us on amendments that allow us to testify in full support of the bill that is before the committee today.

As you might imagine, investigations that include an interview of a child are extremely sensitive and can be incredibly complex. At all times, the safety and welfare of the child is a priority during times when an interview is necessary. The measure before you requires law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy that identifies circumstances when the notification envisioned in the bill is possible and can occur safely. We believe requiring a policy as opposed to a statutory construct can better address the complexity of these investigations without creating unintended consequences. During testimony on the measure in the Senate, I was joined by Detective Scotty Nowning from the Salem Police Department who identified the following reasons why the presence of a parent or guardian is not appropriate or safe:

- A parent or guardian may be a suspect in the case or the potential involvement of a parent or guardian may not be known to an investigator at the time of the interview.
- Interviews with a child in a case where another party is at imminent risk of harm isn't possible or practical
- The presence of a parent in an interview can impact the child's ability and willingness to share openly what they know. Forensic interview best practice doesn't recommend parental/guardian participation in interviews with children due to said presence potentially invalidating responses in court.

- Children who are subjected to abuse are instructed not speak to anyone without the offender/parent being present so the offender can stay in front of any/all potential inquiries, reports, and/or investigations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor of SB 386 and thank you for your consideration.

•