



STATEMENT REQUESTING AMENDMENTS TO SB 418 (PROHIBITING USE OF DECEIT OR TRICKERY)

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Michael Selvaggio, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs
Date: February 16, 2021

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Michael Selvaggio, representing the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS). We represent line officers and deputies around the State of Oregon, and are Oregon's largest law enforcement organization.

On behalf of our membership, I want to convey our concerns with SB 418, which prohibits the use of deceit, trickery or artifice in law enforcement interviews with youth.

While "deceit, trickery or artifice" may have negative connotations, these tools nevertheless sometimes serve as important investigatory tools. However, we understand the concern that some stakeholders may have with regard to the idea of police officer deception generally.

We would make the following suggestions to the supporters of the measure:

First, that the term "youth" is undefined (and the measure is not slated to be added to any specific chapter of ORS with a preexisting definition). ORCOPS suggests defining "youth" with a lower-age threshold than "minor."

Second, that the measure limit the use of these tools only to interviews in which the youth themselves is the target of the officer's investigation. We want our officers to have all tools at their disposal if, for example, they are interviewing a youth who is suspected to be the victim of a crime or ascertaining whether a youth is in an unsafe situation.

ORCOPS is willing to work with supporters on the core premise of this legislation, allowing that these tools often have value even in interviews with minors.

Thank you