



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
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Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
jason@oregonsheriffs.org

Date: March 16, 2023

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 907

Chair Taylor and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to offer testimony in opposition to SB 907 and to request an law enforcement/public safety exemption from the measure if it moves forward

Law enforcement and the wide range of professions that coordinate to ensure safety for our citizens and provide emergency response are inherently dangerous. Our police officers and other emergency responders understand the dangerous nature of their work and they are trained to engage to confront circumstances that involve danger, to come to the aid of those who are in need of help, to prevent harm, eliminate threats and resolve conflict. Many of the calls for service that result in a police response are complex and they often partner our police officers with employees of other professions that must work together in dangerous circumstances. For a law enforcement response to be effective and as safe as possible, workers from other professions must be actively involved. Examples include traffic crashes, natural disasters, wildfire, mental health crisis, violent crime, utility failures and a host of other scenarios where a law enforcement response must be combined with the efforts of workers from other professions. SB 907 creates the potential that workers who are critical to address a dangerous circumstance can refuse to respond if they have "a reasonable apprehension that the performance of the assigned task would result in serious injury or impairment to the health and safety of the employee or other employees." The decision by an employee to refuse to respond in the wide range of circumstances that have the potential for danger puts everyone else involved in additional danger including involved citizens, police officers and other emergency responders.

It is important to note that we believe that employees who work in youth and adult corrections settings, community corrections, parole and probation and other critical corrections employees should also be exempt from the bill if it moves forward.

Thank you for your consideration.