



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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

From: Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
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Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
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Date: May 4th, 2023

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 2572 (Dash 3 Amendment)**

Chairs Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf 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 support of HB 2572 with adoption of the dash 3 amendment.

The dash 3 amendment to HB 2572 creates a civil cause of action against individuals or groups that knowingly engage in paramilitary activity in Oregon. The bill defines paramilitary activity as any of the following actions carried out while armed with a deadly or dangerous weapon: (a) publicly patrolling or drilling; (b) publicly engaging in techniques that can cause physical injury or death, substantially disrupting governmental operations or proceedings, or assuming, exercising, or asserting the functions, powers, or duties of a law enforcement officer or any other official without legal authorization; (c) interfering with another person's legal right to engage or abstain from conduct; or (d) training to engage in any activity described in (a) or (b) of this section. By authorizing the Attorney General to file a civil cause of action for these actions, the bill seeks to protect the public from private paramilitary groups who engage in potentially dangerous and illegal behavior.

The proposed measure includes provisions allowing a person who has been injured as a result of paramilitary activity to bring a civil action against the individuals or group responsible. The plaintiff may bring this action alone or with others who have been affected by the activity. The appropriate court will hear the case, and the plaintiff may seek relief from the defendant(s). If the plaintiff successfully proves their claim, they are eligible to receive economic or noneconomic damages.

We believe the measure carefully identifies paramilitary activity, provides appropriate civil remedies and includes safeguards and exemptions to avoid impeding the legal expression of rights under the constitution. The exemptions identified in the bill include:

- Historical military organizations or legitimate veterans' organizations may parade in public without carrying or using ammunition or explosives.
- Students in authorized educational institutions teaching military science are exempt while under the supervision of a military instructor.
- Members of organizations authorized by state or federal law for paramilitary, law enforcement, or security services are exempt while performing authorized functions and under government control.
- State Department of Fish and Wildlife activities
- Self-defense training and similar activities
- Firearm-related activities and sports that teach safe handling and use of firearms, and individual recreational use or possession of firearms, as long as they don't involve criminal conspiracy or intent to cause harm.

Thank you for your consideration