

Submitter: ERIK DOUGLASS

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4115

The Marion County Law Enforcement Association (MCLEA) is a small police labor collective bargaining unit here in Marion County. The Association works on behalf of 225+ sworn deputy sheriffs and detectives, as well as most support staff who work for the Marion County Sheriff's Office. MCLEA works to better the working life of its members. Its members reside in districts up and down the I-5 Corridor. MCLEA supports HB 4115 and seeks the committee's support for this bill as well.

Restoring Collective Bargaining Rights for certain Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Dispatcher Supervisors in Oregon's may be restored by amending ORS 243.650(23)(c)(B) as proposed in HB 4115. Original collective bargaining law prior to 1995 on this matter allowed front line public safety supervisors the right to bargain wages, hours, and working conditions. That right was taken away inadvertently by a bill in 1995. Oregon police labor has attempted to resolve this problem through legislative proposals since. Most recently ORCOPS, Oregon's premier police labor lobby group of which MCLEA belongs, attempted to correct this mistake in 2023. Unfortunately, efforts then were not successful. After much diligent work collaborating with county and city law enforcement administrators and elected officials by ORCOPS, MCLEA thinks it is time for certain mid-level law enforcement, corrections and dispatch supervisors across Oregon to have the right to bargain collectively if so desired.

There are several reasons this bill should move beyond committee and to the full house for vote. However, perhaps one of the most profound reasons to allow police, corrections and dispatch mid-level managers the right to collective bargain once again across the state is to encourage the best from the line to move up to management without risking the loss of benefits and protections currently held by so doing. After all many, if not most, mid-level supervisors are working right alongside line officers and dispatchers, facing the same legal and physical risks as those who they supervise.

Today, please vote in support of HB 4115 allowing the bill to move out of committee.

Sincerely,

Erik Douglass

Representing Marion County Law Enforcement Association