



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Undersheriff Brad O'Dell, Douglas County Sheriff's Office
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: February 20th, 2025

Re: **HB 2668-2 – Testimony in Support
Private Initiated Search and Rescue Requirements**

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. For the record, my name is **Brad O'Dell**. I am the Undersheriff of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. I am here today on behalf of the **Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA)** to testify in **strong support of HB 2668 with adoption of the dash 2 amendment**. This legislation establishes **clear guidelines for private search parties**, ensuring that families of missing persons receive **transparent information** and that **law enforcement is properly notified** of independent search efforts. These provisions are critical to **public safety, coordination, and accountability** in missing persons cases.

HB 2668-2 introduces **key requirements** for private search parties, including:

- **Mandatory disclosures** to immediate family members, both **verbally and in writing**, stating that the private search party is **not acting as an agent of law enforcement** or a public search and rescue entity.
- Requiring search parties to inform families if they **intend to charge fees, solicit donations, or profit from search-related productions**.
- A requirement that **private search parties notify the local sheriff's office at least 72 hours before initiating a search**, providing **essential information** such as their **identity, qualifications, search timeframe, use of dogs, and any financial disclosures** made to the family.

These measures are necessary to **protect vulnerable families from misinformation or financial exploitation, enhance coordination between private search efforts and law enforcement, and promote effective, ethical search practices**. OSSA supports this legislation as a step toward ensuring **greater accountability and improved outcomes in missing persons cases**.

We urge your **full support of HB 2668-2** to enhance **public trust, safety, and coordination in Oregon's search and rescue efforts.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.